

126 ATLANTIC STREET
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Second Vice: Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays Legion and family members.

It's that time of the year. Christmas Trees are starting to arrive, and I'll need help with unloading, selling trees and loading. There is a sign-up sheet at the Legion Bar, so please volunteer. We start on November 30th at 8:00 am and continue until they are all sold.

On January 15, 2020 the activities meeting will start at 5:00 pm. Topic of discussion will be setting dates and expectations for the Battle of the Branches Breakfast.



BATTLE OF THE BRANCHES

Planning Meeting 1/15/20 @ 5:00pm.

Legion Riders: The Holidays are once again upon us. Be mindful of those less fortunate than us. If you can help fill food boxes or somehow volunteer to help those in need. I know the Post does an amazing job in helping Veterans and their families in need in the Greater McMinnville area as well as the West Valley and surrounding communities.

I want to take this time to personally express my appreciation for those from the Post and Riders who participated in the Veterans/First Responders Parade in McMinnville and who attended the Veterans Dinner at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. You were noticed and your professionalism and attendance were outstanding. Job well done. A special Thank You to Gale Sears who spoke at the dinner at the Tribe, great things were said about your presentation.

On 16 November 2019 our Post 21 Honor Guard and Riders were privileged enough to participate in an Army Veterans Memorial Service in Sheridan. Johnny W. Tart, 22-year Army Veteran. An outstanding job by our Honor Guard and Riders. I cannot begin to express my gratitude and the Thanks from the Family. OHHH RAHH !!!

Next Riders meeting is December 11th, 2019 at 1900 hours at Post 21.

Happy Thanksgiving and have a very Merry Christmas. Looking forward to 2020 and another Outstanding Year at Post 21.

American Legion Riders, Jerry George

Auxiliary: We are fast approaching our Christmas Basket Hand Out!!! All the help we can get is so appreciated. I want to thank the Riders, and Legion for their generous cash donation to help fund the program. I spoke to Salvation Army and the need for help in the community is overwhelming this year. We have already received an abundance of applications. We have barrels set out at the Post for non-perishable foods and new unwrapped toys. We are also taking cash donations. Evergreen Museum has partnered with us this year also to help, a great big Thank you to Evergreen!

Here are the dates and times,
12/16 Shopping for Stockings.
12/18 Sorting food donations, 9am.
12/19 Food and Toy shopping, 9am.
12/20 Fill boxes 8am
12/21 Hand out boxes to Families 8am until 1pm

If you know of anyone who might need a little extra help this Holiday season, please send them to the Post for an application. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!!!

Debra Godwin – ALA President, Unit 21

Chaplain: I hope that all of you had a great "Thanksgiving." Now as we come into Christmas holiday please let it be a joyful day. I ask that all of you would take the time to visit the Post and also attend the meeting. Remember that we have a Legion Meeting on the third Wednesday of every Month. Please join us. Be safe in all you do.

IN MEMORY OF TONI WATTS.



A memorial bench has been donated to the Post and placed in front of the Legion. Toni was a long-time member of the Auxiliary and Don is a member of the American Legion. Toni will be missed by all who knew her.



Wreaths Across America

REMEMBER the Fallen.

HONOR those who serve.

TEACH our children the value of freedom.



National Wreaths Across America Day has become such a big tradition that it's hard to believe it began from just one personal tribute and this photo, which went viral.



So how did it happen? Here's the Scoop: The Worcester family of Harrington, Maine, owns their own tree farm. In 1990s they had a surplus of wreaths during the holiday season, so the family patriarch, Morrill – who had long felt indebted to our fallen veterans – got help from a Maine politician to have those spare wreaths placed beside graves in Arlington National Cemetery in areas that received fewer visitors each year.

Several volunteers stepped up to help, including veterans from The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and a truck company owner who transported the wreaths to Arlington, Virginia, where a small ceremony was held at the cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This remained a small yearly tradition for nearly 15 years until a photo taken at the 2005 ceremony went viral. Almost immediately, thousands of people wanted to know how to help or how they could begin a similar tradition in their states.



Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations and volunteers, including in the trucking industry – there were 150 simultaneous ceremonies held across the country. By 2008, the movement to remember, honor and teach had grown so much that Congress had declared the third Saturday in December National Wreaths Across America Day.

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its thousands of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the 9/11 tragedies.

The goal of covering every headstone at Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths with the assistance of thousands of volunteers.

The event continues to grow. This year, the organization shipped a staggering 1.75 MILLION wreaths to 1,640 locations that will hold ceremonies across the U.S. A few dozen locations overseas will participate. The organization said this was the first year they were granted permission to place wreaths at Normandy to honor those who died during World War II's D-Day invasion.

Veterans and Gold Star families are many of the roughly 2 million volunteers who prepare the wreaths, ship them across the country and put them on the graves.

To all of those who have volunteered time, efforts and money to the cause, cheers to you!

National Wreaths Across America Day

Willamette National Cemetery

December 14, 2109 – 12:00 PM

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 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.

Wreath Sponsorship is available on their website: wreathscrossamerica.org.



Pearl Harbor History

“A Day That Will Live in Infamy”

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, a Japanese attack force of 408 aircraft launched from 6 aircraft carriers and initiated a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet, stationed at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The first wave of 183 aircraft was launched north of Oahu shortly before 8:00am. One hundred forty Japanese bombers armed with armor-piercing bombs and torpedoes and forty-three fighter aircraft concurrently targeted the eight battleships berthed in “Battleship Row” along the coast of Ford Island. During this wave of attacks, each ship at Battleship Row was struck by enemy aircraft. The damage sustained by the U.S. battleships was compounded by the fact that each ship, other than the USS Nevada (BB-36), was moored to another vessel or in drydock, which left the crewmembers unable to get their ships underway. After a brief lull, Japanese aircraft launched a second wave of airstrikes, which inflicted additional damage, but was not as deadly as the first wave, since U.S. service members were prepared for a second attack. The attack was over within approximately 90 minutes, leaving 2,403 Americans killed and 1,178 wounded.

In just under two hours, the Japanese had sunk or damaged 21 ships: all eight battleships (*Arizona*, *California*, *Nevada*, *Oklahoma*, *West Virginia*, *Pennsylvania*, *Maryland*, and *Tennessee*), three light cruisers (*Helena*, *Honolulu*, and *Raleigh*), four destroyers (*Cassin*, *Downes*, *Helm*, and *Shaw*), one target ship (*Utah*), and four auxiliaries (*Curtiss*, *Sotoyoma*, *Vestal*, and *Floating Drydock Number 2*).

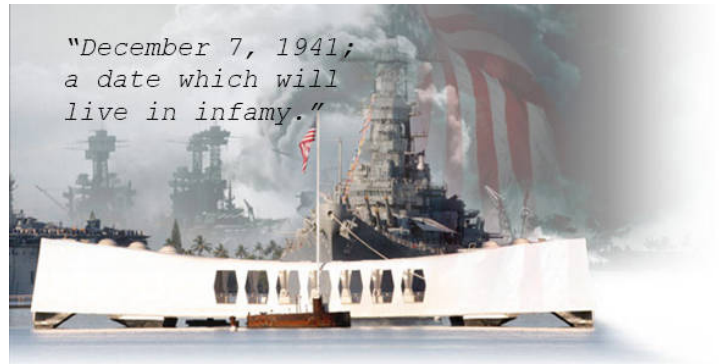
The Japanese also strafed and bombed the planes, hangars, and other buildings located near the airfields, including dormitories and mess halls. By the time the U.S. military personnel at the airfields realized what was happening, there was little they could do. A few individuals picked up guns and shot at the invading planes. A handful of U.S. fighter pilots were able to get their planes off the ground and were able to shoot down a few Japanese planes despite being outnumbered, of the 402 U.S. aircraft at Pearl Harbor, 188 were destroyed and 159 were damaged.

A total of 2,335 servicemen were killed and 1,143 were wounded. Sixty-eight civilians were also killed and 35 were wounded. Nearly half of the servicemen that were killed were on board the *Arizona* when it exploded.

The following day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress declaring that December 7, 1941 “a date that will live in infamy.” Congress declared war on Japan.

Yesterday, December seventh, 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.

(Franklin D. Roosevelt)



Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Makes 200th Identification from USS Oklahoma remains.

The USS Oklahoma, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, was sunk by Japanese aircraft during the attack on Pearl Harbor. A total of 429 crewmen aboard the *USS Oklahoma* were killed in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941, after the ship quickly capsized from the numerous torpedo hits.

From December 1941 through June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of those who perished, interring them in the Halawa and Nu‘uanu Cemeteries in Hawaii.

The remains were disinterred by the American Graves Registration Service from the two cemeteries in September 1947, and transferred to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. At that time only 35 men were identified out of the 429 killed. Nearly 400 unidentified remains were buried as Unknowns in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In 2015, as part of the *USS Oklahoma* Project, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, through a partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, exhumed all of the unknown remains from the *USS Oklahoma*, and began the lengthy identification process. As of March 2018, DPAA made their 200th identification from the ship’s casualties.



USS OKLAHOMA Floats capsized near the USS Maryland
December 7, 1941.



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

Marley R. Arthurholtz – Pfc. - Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for Oct 1, 2019.

Louis Wiesenhan, JR. – Pfc. – Lost November 21, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 1, 2019.

Robert Hatch – Pfc. – Lost November 22, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 1, 2019.

John R. Bayens – Pfc. – Lost November 22, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 1, 2019.

Norman A. Baun – Pfc. – Lost November 20, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 3, 2019.

Jack VanZandt – Pfc. – Lost November 22, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 3, 2019.

Quentin McCall – Pfc. – Lost November 23, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 17, 2019.

Earl Ferguson – 2nd Lt. – Lost August 1, 1943 – Romania. Accounted for October 17, 2019.

William D. Hedtke – Pvt. – Lost September 18, 1944 – The Netherlands. Accounted for October 25, 2019.

Jerome Morris – Sgt. – Lost November 22, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for October 29, 2019.

Franco Porfino – Pvt. – Lost July 18, 1942 – Philippines. Accounted for October 29, 2019.

Everett Windle – Seaman 2nd Class – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for October 30, 2019.

Layton Banks – Coxswain – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for October 30, 2019.

Bethel Walters – Firemen 1st Class – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for October 30, 2019.

Paul H. Gebser - Machinist's Mate 1st Class – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 1, 2019.

Lloyd R. Timm – Seaman 2nd Class – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 1, 2019.

Frances C. Flaherty – Ensign – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 1, 2019.

Thomas H. Cooper – Cpl. – Lost November 20, 1943 – Tarawa. Accounted for November 4, 2019.

Horace H. Middleton, Pvt. – Lost July 12, 1944 – Burma. Accounted for November 4, 2019.

Herbert B. Jacobson – Firemen 3rd Class – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 6, 2019.

Max W. Lower – Tech Sgt. – Lost August 1, 1943 – Romania. Accounted for November 14, 2019.

Hadley I. Heavin – Firemen 1st Class - Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS West Virginia. Accounted for November 20, 2019.

Ashby L. Welborn – Firemen 3rd Class - Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS West Virginia. Accounted for November 20, 2019.

Andrew J. Schmitz – Firemen 1st Class - Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for Nov 21, 2019.

Rex Wise – Firemen 1st Class - Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for Nov 22, 2019.

Korea

John A. Shelemba – Pfc. – Lost November 7, 1950. Accounted for October 1, 2019.

William Brown, Cpl. – Lost December 2, 1950 – North Korea. Accounted for October 3, 2019.

Ray Fairchild, Pfc. – Lost November 27, 1950 – North Korea. Accounted for October 3, 2019.

William C. Holmes, Sgt. – Lost September 21, 1951 – North Korea. Accounted for October 31, 2019.

Earl W. Duncan, Cpl. – Lost December 2, 1950 – North Korea. Accounted for November 4, 2019.

Leon E. Clevenger, Cpl. – Lost July 11, 1950 – South Korea. Accounted for November 7, 2019.

Jackey D. Blosser, Cpl – Lost December 2, 1950 – North Korea. Accounted for November 14, 2019.

Maximiano T. Lacsamana, Sgt.– Lost December 3, 1950 – North Korea. Accounted for November 20, 2019.

Harold F. Drews, M.Sgt. – Lost December 12, 1950 – North Korea. Accounted for November 27, 2019.



We will not rest until all American Servicemembers are recovered, identified and returned to their families.

December 2019

Happy Holidays

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1 Dist 2 Meet - Canby Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM	2 Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM House Committee 4:30 PM	3 Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM SON's 6:30 PM	4 Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM	5 Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM	6 Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM Prime Rib Dinner Special 6:00 PM	7 Christmas Tree Sales 8:00 AM Auxiliary Christmas Bazzare 9:00 AM
8 Pearl Harbor Brunch - Sons 8:00 AM	9 Open Mike	10 AMVETS 6:30 PM	11 Legion Rider Meeting - SPECIAL DATE 7:00 PM	12	13 Prime Rib Dinner Special 6:00 PM	14
15	16 House Committee 4:30 PM Finance Committee 5:00 PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM	17 Auxiliary 6:00 PM	18 Christmas Boxes Assembly - Auxiliary 9:00 AM Activities Committee 5:30 PM General Membership 6:30 PM	19 Christmas Boxes Assembly - Auxiliary 9:00 AM	20 Christmas Boxes Assembly - Auxiliary 8:00 AM Prime Rib Dinner Special 6:00 PM	21 Christmas Boxes - Delivery 8:00 AM White Elephant Christmas Party 6:00 PM
22	23 Open Mike	24 Christmas Eve - Early Close Hot Toddy Drink Special 4:00 PM	25 Christmas Day - Closed	26	27 Prime Rib Dinner Special 6:00 PM	28
29	30	31				



Kenneth Ashby, Russell Ashwell, Jennifer Berger, Kathleen Blair, Devon Briger, Jesse Brown, Kenneth Chastain, Phil Crosman, Richard Davis, Lawrence Floyd, George Francis, Ed Gormley, George Harding, Mark Heasley, Dennis Hendricks, Joseph Japel, James Lash, Steven Macy, Richard McAllister, N. McCleskey, Everett Merritt, Deena Myatt, Patrick Park, William Parker, Rich Pimm, Robert Rollins, Steven Sandercock, Dale Santa, Zachery Searcy, Steven Smith, Robert Tucker, David White, Del White, Gerald Witt, Roy Zimbrick, Gene Zinda

AMERICAN LEGION - POST 21
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REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

December 7th, 1941



On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan, crippling America's Pacific Fleet and launching us into World War II. Not many of our veterans from that war are still with us. Thank you for your sacrifice and service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 7 – Auxiliary Christmas Bazar
- 8 – Son's Pearl Harbor Breakfast
- 9 – Open Mike Night
- 20 – Auxiliary Christmas Boxes
- 21 – White Elephant Christmas Party

January

- 15 – Battle of the Branches planning meeting

February

- 15 – Chili Cook-Off.

Legion Christmas Tree Sales

126 Atlantic, McMinnville

Starting November 30, 2019

Daily - 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

5 foot	-	\$20.00
6-7 Foot	-	\$30.00
Over 7 Foot	-	\$40.00



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

Vetsclub21.org