

# AMERICAN LEGION

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

**Commander:** Hello Legionnaires, I see that the Lord has kept us safe and sound. Thank you, Lord.

The club has been busy with Veterans and families having a good old time. There is a lot of laughter and kids being kids. What a GREAT sound.

The Bingo games attendance is growing. Bingo players are laughing, talking, and eating before the games start. But, before the games start, they recite the pledge of allegiance. REAL NICE!! When the game is in progress there is total silence until somebody yells out "BINGO." Thanks to Unit 21 Auxiliary for sponsoring the Bingo games at the Post. Good Job!!

WE lost one of our WWII veterans this week. Marvin Worden passed on, he received military honors by the United Veterans Honor Guard and a celebration of life at the club. The celebration of life was well attended. Rest In Peace Marvin.

I went to Willamette National Cemetery for a funeral and arrived early and no one was there. After a short time later, several vehicles came into the parking lot. They were the honor guard from two different veteran organizations to preform military honors. What was interesting was that they (VFW and American Legion) got together and talked about the upcoming funerals. Which ones they were going to do and if anybody need help with the rifle team.

In talking with them, I was told that the day before they did a 21-gun salute for a VFW Past Department Commander. Four members were VFW and three members from the American Legion. The uniform was the same with exception of the hats. They wore their organization hat.



The funerals were about military honors for the veteran and not about themselves or their organization. Nobody telling others what to do or how to do it.

How is it possible for this to happen? It is about WORKING TOGETHER!!!!

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last round of nominations and then the elections. You will need your current membership card to vote and attend the meeting. Legion members will only be allowed in the meeting. We will try to get the elected officers installed by a District or past district commander.

Dignity sponsors a program for unclaimed veterans with military honors, so they are not left behind. It is a good program and several veterans do attend the veteran's funeral. If you want to be on the notified call list, call or e-mail Crystal Mai Purdy-Newland at 971-386-2801. She is the Funeral Home Manager at Lincoln Memorial Park & Funeral Home. Her e-mail is: [Crystal.Purdy@DignityMemorial.com](mailto:Crystal.Purdy@DignityMemorial.com). She oversees this program and does a great job.

Let us be safe and be kind to others, it is a good feeling. GOD Bless everybody.

*Juan M. Palacios, Post 21 Commander, Semper Fi*





The most recent identified POW/MIA.

## World War II

**Army Pfc. – Sanford Bowen - 26.** Lost January 20, 1945 when his unit was surrounded by German forces while being pounded by artillery and mortar fire. His company and four others were given the order to attempt a break-out but only two men from Bowen's Company made it through German lines. The rest were either captured or killed. Bowen was among those killed, but his body could not be recovered because of the fighting. Accounted for March 21, 2022.

**Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Louis Girard – 20.** Lost August 1, 1943 when the B-24 Liberator he was flying crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire during operation TIDAL WAVE. His remains could not be identified following the war. The remains that could not be identified were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section in Romania. Accounted for March 28, 2022.

**Army Air Forces Sgt. Elvin Phillips – 23.** Lost August 1, 1943 when the B-24 Liberator on which he was serving as a gunner crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft during Operation TIDAL WAVE. His remains could not be identified following the war. The remains that could not be identified were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section in Romania. Accounted for March 23, 2022. Announced April 4, 2022.

**Navy Water Tender 1<sup>st</sup> Class Milo Phillips - 26.** Lost December 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for March 23, 2022. Announced April 4, 2022.

**Army Pfc. Merl Holm – 22.** Lost November 26, 1942 when his Unit attempted to flank the enemy defensive lines of the Japanese in Papua New Guinea. Holm was killed in action and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Accounted for April 15, 2022.

**Marine Corps Cpl. William Ragasdale – 23.** Lost June 28, 1944 when his Division invaded the island of Saipan in an effort to capture the Mariana Islands from Japan. Ragasdale was wounded and evacuated from Saipan. He was unable to be found during the chaos surrounding the battle and its aftermath, his status was changed to missing in action. Accounted For April 15, 2022.

## Korea

**Army Cpl. Donald Menken – 21.** Lost June 10, 1953 when he was reported missing in action after being wounded by artillery shell fragments while his unit was guarding Outpost Harry, in what is now the Demilitarized Zone. He was never found, nor were any remains recovered. Accounted for February 2, 2022, announced March 24, 2022.

**Army Cpl. Paul Mitchem – 20.** Lost July 7, 1950 when he was reported missing after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Ch'onan, South Korea. His body was not recovered when his unit was forced to retreat, nor were any remains found that could be identified as Mitchem. Shortly after recapturing territory around Ch'onan, remains were recovered and buried in Hawaii. In June 2019 those remains were exhumed and Mitchem's remains were identified. Accounted for February 11, 2021. Announced April 15, 2022.



Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

Mr. Whiting said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible... Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!"

The American Senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then, he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on, D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to."

*You could have had a pin drop.*

## Why Is The Poppy A Symbol of Memorial Day?

In the wr-torn battlefields of Europe, the common red field poppy was the first plants to reappear. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground only germinating when the ground was disturbed-as it was by the very brutal fighting of Word War 1.

John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war first hand and was inspired to write the now-famous poem "In Flanders Fields" in 1915. He saw the poppies scattered throught the battlefield surrounding his artillery position in Belgium.

Days before the offical end of WWI an American, Moina Michael wrote her own poem, which was inspired by "In Flanders Fields." Her poem mentions wearing the "poppy red" to honor the dead, and with that, the tradition of adorning one's clothing with a single red poppy in remembrance of those killed in the Great War was born. She came to be known – and honored – as "The Poppy Lady."

### "We Shall Keep the Faith"

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.  
We charish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.  
And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.



**THANK YOU!** As the volunteer organizer of the Army Breakfast, our goal was to have fun while feeding our fellow Veterans. As they took their seats, they found camouflaged table covers and toy soldiers provided by my dear wife Sim; MRE's (Meal Ready to Eat) and partitions "C" rations. Meals remembered as food in a box or bag which sustained us as we protected our Nations freedoms.

Our Cooks Adam Hauck, Terry Ward and Paul Krutch did an amazing job preparing the meal in a progressive cooking fashion ensuring good hot meals for all. But not without a great deal of help from other volunteers, who cut, sliced, diced. Of special gratitude was the Son's of the American Legion crew; lead by Terry Naig; to include Del White, Steve Kindle, and Jim VanScoyk. Army servers and dishwashers as well, Steve Randles, Paul Schnell, Mike Balcombe with Mike's very own; "stuff on a shingle."

I cannot begin to thank these volunteers for their effort and willingness support the Army Breakfast. Although we did not win the fevered competition, we had fun and added funding in support of our mission to support our community and local Veterans. Glenna Smith representing the Auxiliary and Bob Zeeck our historian was also of assistance.

Thank you all!!

*Gale Sears, US Army (Ret)*

### BATTLE OF THE BRANCHES



1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Navy & Coast Guard



2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Air Force



3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Marine Corps



4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Army

The Results are in! Thank You everyone who came and participated in the Battle of the Branches Breakfasts. And thank you to the many volunteers who came and helped make this an amazing annual event for Post 21.

**Adjutant:** I was recently asked how many of Post 21 members were in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, etc., After a little research this is what conflict Post 21 members were in when they were defending our country! The other conflicts era are those members who served during eras not recognized as conflict periods. In 2019 President Trump signed into law The Legion Act opening eligibility to veterans who served during eras not recognized as conflict periods.

#### War Era member numbers:



WWII	12
Korean War	27
Vietnam	245
Other conflicts	13
Lebanon-Granada	35
Panama	13
Persian Gulf War	33
Gulf War on Terrorism	38
<u>Unknown</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Members	426

#### A NOTE FROM THE POST!

I must say we are getting busier than ever. I have seen a lot of new faces.

Our National President will be visiting our Post 5/16/22 for breakfast at 9am until approximately 10:30. Everyone is invited to come have breakfast with her. I am super excited to show her our home. We have never had a National President visit Post #21.

We will be having a Memorial Day BBQ, May 30th, from 1:00 until 5:00 (or sold out.) The BBQ will be by donation. I could really use some volunteers to help. I will need, setup, cooks, servers, runners, and cleanup. If you can help, please reach out to me, and let me know. We are also asking for side dishes, and desserts. So, bring your favorite dish. I would personally like to thank our amazing cook, Adam! He is doing a great job. If you give him a task, he is all over it, THANK YOU ADAM! We all love and appreciate you!

**Debra Godwin**

**Auxiliary:** A Huge THANK YOU to **Sim Sears** and **Leanne Schnell** for crafting 14 Lap Blankets for the Legion Riders. The Riders had given the Auxiliary \$250. to make as many blankets as the donated funds would allow and these 2 ladies (who are also Legion Riders) are the ones who stepped up and completed the project. Job well done!

In addition to scholarships, the Auxiliary is looking for opportunities to donate funds to schools and/or organization that teach Occupational Life Skills. Willamina Kustoms will be the first to receive one of the Life Skills donations. Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am representatives from the Auxiliary will be at Willamina High School to present \$1000 in Harbor Freight Gift Cards to CTE teacher, TJ Wilson. These funds will be used to buy auto tools for the students to complete a custom 1937 Lincoln Zephyr to take to the 2023 Grand National Roadster Show in Pomona, CA. Willamina is building a first-class auto shop program that will be a model for other schools and the Auxiliary is pleased to show our support to these students.

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> the Annual Auxiliary Cinco de Mayo dinner - Auxiliary members mark your calendar and plan on helping to make our event a success.

May 17<sup>th</sup> will be the Auxiliary Meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last time for nomination of officers. Please plan on attending to pick your Auxiliary Board members for 2022 -2023.

The current list of nominees is:

President – Glena Smith and Gretchen Jones  
Vice President – Gregoria Hernandez  
Secretary – Gregoria Hernandez  
Treasurer – Becky Berweger  
Historian -  
Membership -  
Chaplin – Susan Haley  
Sargent at Arms –





# MAY

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
<b>1</b> Legion Bingo 1:00 PM 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> General Membership Meeting & Elections 6:30 PM 	<b>4</b> SON's 6:30 PM 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Prime Rib Dinner Special - Legion KP 5:00 PM	<b>7</b> Cancer Bingo 1:00 PM Cinco de Mayo 4:00 PM 
<b>8</b> Legion Bingo 1:00 PM 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> House Committee 5:00 PM 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Prime Rib Dinner Special - Auxiliary KP 5:00 PM	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Legion Bingo 1:00 PM 	<b>16</b> Activities Committee 5:30 PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM	<b>17</b> Auxiliary 6:00 PM 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Prime Rib Dinner Special - Sons KP 5:00 PM	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Legion Bingo 1:00 PM 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Legion Rider Meeting 7:00 PM 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Prime Rib Dinner Special - Riders KP 5:00 PM	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Legion Bingo 1:00 PM 	<b>30</b> Memorial Day Remembrance & BBQ 1:00 PM 	<b>31</b>				

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Eric Aberg, William Allen, Tony Amodeo, Garry Angus, Gary Arnold, Steve Bradley, John Carter, Rebecca Christensen, Harold Cocker, Gary Dawson, Joe Garcia, Jay Gautney, Peter Granger, Martha Knapp, Morrie Hantze, John Hatch, Jim Hollard, Dean Krieger, Jim Letourneux, James Lewis, Roswitha Lewis, Juanita Lucht, Laurence Lutz, Peter Martinez, Angel Mendoza, Douglas Morehead, Terry Murrell, Ericka Nickolisen, Christopher Nielsen, Bill Nourse, Patrick O'Leary, Erwin Penrose, Anthony Privatsky, Gerald Rima, Michael Ryan, Kay Sadler, David Sleeth, Jerry Terry, Larry Terry, Terry Ward, Dion Wood, Andrew Worden, Ronda Yeaman.

AMERICAN LEGION – POST 21  
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503-435-2218  
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## OFFICERS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Juan Palacios  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Bruce Peterson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Jim Connelly  
JAG – Steve Randles  
Finance – Gale Sears  
Adjutant – Shirley Brown  
Sgt at Arms – Robert De Kar  
Historian – Bob Zeeck  
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton  
Service Officer – Tim Anderson  
At Large – Bob Berweger  
At Large – Rich Pimm  
At Large – Paul Schnell

### AUXILIARY

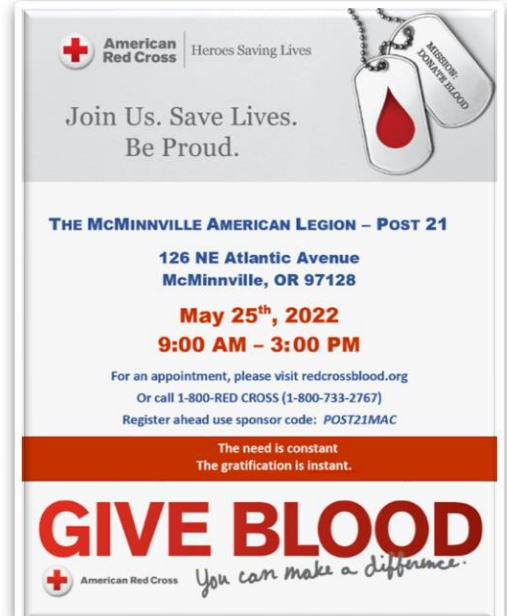
President – Glenna Smith  
Vice – Goya Hernandez  
Treasurer – Becky Berweger  
Secretary –  
Service Officer – Carol Doege  
Chaplain – Susan Haley  
Sgt at Arms – Gretchen Jones

### 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 – Paul Schnell  
Asst. Director – Gale Sears  
Secretary – Leanne Schnell  
Treasurer – Tammy De Kar  
Sgt at Arms – Robert De Kar  
Road Capt. – Tony Amodeo  
Historian – Jim Connelly



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."