

AMERICAN LEGION

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

Commander Hello, I see that the good Lord has kept us safe and happy. Thank you, Lord.

You have heard the term “The unsung heroes”? Our Post has a lot of unsung heroes that a few know about. They are people that volunteer without any type of reward, just gives them a sense of pride and satisfaction.

Michele Duvall is one of those heroes. She did not like the chairs that were outside in the patio, so instead of complaining about them, she replaced them at her own expense. She did not to be reimbursed by the Post. Michele was happy to replace them, now she can sit and be comfortable outside. Not just her but everybody else. It makes the patio a relaxed atmosphere. Thank you, Michele for making the Post a friendly place to be in. That’s one of our great Unsung Heroes.

As a Post Commander, it gives me a great pleasure in helping our youth. You always hear negative things about them, but nobody wants to help them. They just love to complaint about them. What a shame!!

Our Post has a lot of Youth programs, but nobody wants to help. Yes, it takes a lot of time that needs to be dedicated but the end results are fantastic. I also hear the term “it’s always the same people who do all the work” yes but they are dedicated people of our Post. GREAT PEOPLE that want to help, no matter what!

Our Post helps our youth by hiring them at our Post. We have three young ladies that do a fantastic job. Not only do they work hard but our guest loves them. They bring a smile to our guest. When they are not working, they ask” where are the girls.” Yes, they are still teenagers with laughter, always in a good and friendly mood. Makes us feel great to have them around. They make us feel young. LOL

The Post families are always doing different events for the Post. The Post is always looking great and doing great things. They make our Post shine. Veterans that come to the Post tell me that they like what they see. They want to sign up and be a member. Guess what? I am there to help them sign up.

Our Post is growing in membership. By being a member, they are helping the Post financially. They come to the Post’s Club to enjoy great food and comradeship. There is always veterans and guest talking and having a good time. They bring their family to the Post because they feel safe and comfortable.

Our Post is one of the largest in the State. We have a large number of new members signing up, transferring (from other Posts) and renewing their membership. WE do not have a membership team just a great Post.

God Bless and Semper Fi.

Juan M. Palacios, Post 21 Commander



Adjutant: If you have recently paid your membership dues and are wondering where your new card is, I do have them. I cannot process them until July 1st, at which time I will be on vacation until the end of July.

I will process all dues received when I return from vacation at the end of July.

Shirley Brown, Adjutant Post 21

A NOTE FROM THE POST.

We have a lot going on!! July 4th, we will be having an Old-Fashioned 4th of July BBQ!! We have a lot of things planned!!! Dunk tank, corn hole, watermelon eating contest, water balloon toss, and good food. It will be by donation, 11am until 4pm. We are asking for our members to provide side dishes, and desserts.

We were approved to replace our floors in the dining room and get new chairs. As everyone knows our floor is in pretty bad shape. We will have to close the post; we hope for only 2 days. When we get a final date of installation, we will let everyone know. Unfortunately, with the food cost increases, we will have to increase our menu prices. The price increases will take place when our post is closed for the floor installation. We will continue to have the best prices, and food in town!!

We are still looking for a part-time cook. If you are interested, please come see me.

I need to appreciate my team that works tirelessly by my side to keep our post moving ahead. Without each and every one of you, we would not be where we are today. Commander Juan, you are included, always checking on us, working by our sides, making sure we have everything we need. We love and appreciate you!!

Just a little sidenote, your servers are volunteers, and in charge when behind the bar, please show you appreciate them!!

Debra Godwin, Club Manager



Chaplain: To all my friends of Post 21 I send a big HELLO! We had a great time with the "Ride of Honor" on May 29, 2023, Memorial Day. It was great when people came up to say that they were happy to see the way our post came to honor the lost members that had serviced our country. Many people came to say that they were looking for that day in a big way. Many thanks were given for the job that we as a whole did a great job.

I want to say that it was a big help to have our "Legion Riders" leading the way. We departed the post at 0845 and headed to Amity Cemetery, Dayton City Hall Wall of Honor, Carlton Cemetery then to the Baker Creek School where every year they put out a flag to honor all the Oregon Vets that have passed on. There was about 6000 flags placed at that stop to honor the many men and women that have served this great country.

Last stop was at the post where we once again were given the honor of revealing a new sign honoring US Navy fallen hero. The sign was placed on Hwy 18 that stated in his honor. The sign named the Fallen Hero Memorial Highway in honor to "Garry Bradbury Hodgson US Navy."

Please take the time to remember in prayer the following = Terry Ward, Mike Morris, Gene Hamilton, Jim Connelly, Jimmy Wagner and My wife Jeanne Clayton who will be having surgery on June 30, 2023.

AS always, my prayers are going up for all of you. May God keep his hand on you.

May the good Lord go with you.

Chaplain Thomas Clayton
armynavy6782@gmail.com



Sons: Hello team 21, Del White here.

First off, I want to thank Terry Naig for his years of service as our squadron 21 commander.

I have been elected as the new squadron 21 commander for the 2023-24 membership year. Going forward, we will still be a team as we work together with the Legion, Auxiliary, and the Riders in our quest to support our veterans and the community. When I say team, this is what I believe the letters of team mean.

T- stands for TOGETHER.

E-stands for EVERYONE

A-stands for ACHEIVES

M-stands for MORE

This is something I truly believe in, as when we all work together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. We will continue to make post 21 bigger and stronger in the years ahead.

At our last meeting, we presented the CEO Russell Mark of Juliette's House with a check for \$2208.88. \$1,000 from our general fund was added to the \$1208.88 profit from the Tri Tip dinner after the ride for Child Abuse Awareness. (Picture attached) L-R- Bill Lindemann COO, Russell Mark CEO, Terry Naig Sq. 21 Commander.



Here are your squadron 21 officers for the 2023-24 membership year.

- Commander-Del White
- 1st vice-Bill Lindemann
- 2nd vice-Steve Kindel
- Finance- Terry Naig
- Adjutant-Terry Naig
- Chaplain-Pete Jensen
- Sgt at Arms-Brandon Lepkowski
- Advisor to the legion-Angel Mendoza

I'm looking forward to a great year working with our post 21 family.

Del White, Commander



Auxiliary: The new year started with a bang after our delegates attended the Convention in Coos Bay. 2023/24 President Debra Goodwin opened the meeting with information that was statewide. Officer and committee chairmen reported the following:

Historian Glenna Smith reported the 2nd place honor in the state with our activity scrapbook! Service chair Carol Doege shared a heartwarming report of a veteran visit in a retirement facility and requested that we bring her magazines of the outdoor type to take to these visits. Chaplain Shirley Burkett called for names of additional vets who could benefit from visits from our unit.

Activities for the summer will kick off with a big 4th of July celebration fun filled with games, dunk tank, and a potluck meal. Members are encouraged to donate a dessert or salad. The hours are approximately 11am-4pm and the cost is donations only. Auxiliary members are needed to assist.

July 14th is the Auxiliary responsibility of helping with the Prime Rib dinner night and volunteers are always welcome.

August 12 is the infamous Crawfish Boil, hosted by Bert's Chuckwagon so look for additional information next month!

September will bring the raffle for a crabbing trip donated by Gerald Evers, tickets will sell out quickly! Last year's winner Jenni Burkhead reports it was a glorious day with everyone limiting out and she brought enough crab home to feed 7 people! Tickets will be \$20, and it is a sweet deal for a fantastic day on the water with crabbing entertainment and a bounty of crab!

The August yard sale is still under discussion until a couple of co-chairmen wish to organize it. If you are a yard sale junkie and want to see this happen, feel free to let Debra know. Many members have been saving their treasures for this!

Jenni Burkhead, Auxiliary Membership Chair

THE PURPLE HEART

I had just arrived at my Post and happened to glance up at the camera. I noticed a young man riding his bike up to the front door. I continued to watch him climb off his bike and head to the front door, as if he were on a mission. The young man had a look on his face that I will never forget.

He said, my mom and I bought a box full of stuff at a yard sale, and when I was digging through it at the bottom, I found this. He held out a tightly clenched fist, and in my hand, he laid a purple heart. He then said I know it is important and if I brought it to you, then maybe you could find its home.



I instantly felt a pain in my heart. I was holding a Purple Heart. A Purple Heart that belonged to a Soldier. The young man said, "please ma'am could you find him?" He needs to have his medal back". I told him "I would do my best, and if not, we would clean it up, replace the ribbon and honor him here."

I went home that night and could not sleep. My heart felt heavy, and the thoughts of the soldier flooded my mind. I knew I had to do something.

The next morning, I headed to the post with one thing on my mind, the Soldier that was missing his Purple Heart. Bob Wittrock was there, and I began to tell him the story, and he immediately picked up his iPad and began the search. On the back of the Purple Heart the name, Ted Q. Reed Jr, was engraved. Bob then said, "I found him." I looked at the picture Bob had pulled up; the tears filled my eyes. The more information we found on Ted, the more I felt I knew him.

We found him, America's Hero.

I kept the Purple Heart pinned above the register at my post and every day I came in I would say good morning, Ted, and remind him that I was going to take him home. George, A member of my post came in one day and said, hey what's with that Purple Heart pinned up there? I began to tell him the story, he said give me his name and I will see what I can find.

About 3 hours later George came back with all the information we needed, even newspaper articles found about Ted. George had done a genealogy search and found the soldiers' cousins. George made a call to a cousin. His family gave George A phone number, and the name of Ted's living sister, Evelyn E. Currey. George called the number, but it was no longer in service. George then found Evelyn on Facebook and sent a message to her with no response. My heart sank. Were we ever going to take Ted home like I had promised?

Not a day went by that I didn't say Good Morning Ted and promise that I would someday take him home.

I felt I was at a dead end, never finding Ted's sister. I knew Evelyn's last known address was in Lebanon Oregon, so I reached out to Bobbi Peebler, an ALA member of the Lebanon ALA Unit. When I began to tell Bobbi the story she said, Debra I know Evelyn!

I can't possibly even start to put down in words describing the feeling that rushed over me. Bobbi said let me find her number and reach out to Evelyn and have her call you. Several days passed and no call. Once again despair filled my heart.



Evelynn called, she cried, and I cried. She couldn't believe we had found Teds Purple Heart. We set up a date so I could take Ted home, a promise I had made.

Steve, our Department Chaplain helped me find a new ribbon, and a box. Then I got it all cleaned up. I wanted the Purple Heart to be perfect when we took Ted home.

June 12th, 2023, I headed to Lebanon to meet Bobbi then head to Evelyn's. We pulled up in front of her house, and she met us outside. It felt like Evelyn was an old friend. As if I had known her for a lifetime. Beautifully placed on a small table on her deck was a picture of Ted. As I looked at his picture a feeling of comfort filled my heart.

I asked Evelyn what her fondest memory of Ted was. Her eyes filled with tears, and she smiled. She began to tell me her story: when we were little we lived in Sweet Home, and there was a field behind our house. Ted would take me out to the field to play soldiers. Evelyn said that Ted

dreamed about being a soldier when he grew up. She said they would find the biggest dirt clods and throw them like bombs. They would play soldiers for hours. The tears filled my eyes. Then I asked what Evelyn's last memory of Ted was. She began to tell us that the whole family had spent the day in Portland having fun, then they all loaded into the car and headed to Fort Lewis. When they arrived, the guards wouldn't let them drive through the gate, so Ted grabbed his bag, hopped out of the car, excited to become a soldier and headed towards the base. Evelyn sat in the car watching him. Ted stopped, turned around, smiled and waved goodbye. Tears rolled down Evelyn's face, as she said, that was the last time I seen Ted.

I then asked who was the last known person that had Ted's medals, Evelyn said their stepmom, who loved Ted as if he was her own. She lived in Caldwell Idaho, and had passed away in 1997, and no one knew where Ted's Purple Heart had gone.



Talk about an emotional moment. How did Ted's Purple Heart get from Caldwell Idaho to McMinnville Oregon, end up in a box in a yard sale, then end up in my hand, and take 26 years?

We always say For God and Country!

God sent Ted's Purple Heart to me for a reason, and I wished I understood why. What an honor to have taken our American Hero home. Rest In Peace Ted, you are now home!

Sergeant Ted Quinton Reed Jr.
Light Weapons Infantry (Army)
Start Date 07/06/1968.
Casualty Date 03/07/1969
Location: Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam
Age of 21 years.

*Debra Godwin, American Legion Auxiliary
Unit #21, PDP 2021/2023*



The most recent identified POW/MIA.

World War II

Army Tech Sgt. Lawrence Reitz – 22. Lost August 1st 1943 when the B-24 Liberator he serving as a radio operator was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and crashed during Operation TIDAL WAVE. His remains could not be identified following the war. Accounted for September 30, 2022. Announced April 20, 2023.

Army Cpl. Leo Barlosky – 24. Lost April 1942 when he was captured by Japanese forces who were invading the Philippine Islands. Barlosky was subjected to the Bataan Death March and held at the Cabanatuan POW camp, he died July 27, 1942. Announced June 15, 2023.

Army Pfc. Clinton Koloski - 21. Lost January 14, 1945 when his unit encountered German Soldiers in fortified positions. Koloski was killed in the firefight. Due to the intense fighting his remains were not recovered. Announced June 22, 2023.

Korea

Army Pfc. Billy DeBord – 18. Lost July 25, 1950 when his unit was engaged by the North Korean People's Army near Yongdong, South Korea. Due to the intense fighting, his body could not be recovered. and there was no record of him being a prisoner of war. Accounted for February 3, 2023. Announced April 17, 2023.

Army Sgt. Howard Malcolm – 23. Lost December 1, 1950 when his unit was withdrawing from Kunu-ri, North Korea. He was taken prisoner and died in August 1951 at Prisoner of War Camp #5.



SAVE THE DATE!

VETERAN SUMMIT & RESOURCE FAIR

10 A.M. – 4 P.M. • July 7, 2023

Uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9600 S.W. Hebo Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Join us for a day of gathering, healing and connection. Come learn about various benefits and resources. Enjoy lunch and connect with others!




TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Office of Tribal Government Relations VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs NATIVE WELLNESS

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde invites veterans, their families, and all to join them for the Annual Veterans Powwow on July 7, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. There will also be a Veteran Summit & Resource Fair that day from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The annual powwow and fair will take place at the Uyxat Powwow Grounds (9600 S.W. Hebo Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347). The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs will also have a table at the fair with information for veterans along with staff on-site to answer questions and have discussions for those wanting to learn more.

All veterans are invited to join for a day of gathering, healing, and connection. Come learn about various benefits and resources. Enjoy lunch and connect with others!



Riders: Post 21 Riders, welcome to July and the summer riding season. Please always ride to be **Seen** and **Safe!**

I want to again thank all of you for your attendance at our meetings and activities we were involved in the weekend of 17-18 June. It's great to know we can come together so well in support of our post and community.

Our Asst Dir. Bill Lindemann has moved forward in support of our August 26th Scholarship poker Run gaining to date \$2,000 in sponsors. Generic business cards are ordered for all to distribute as we meet other riders; providing our members the ability to show our pride while riding with others in support of our Post, veterans and our community.

The delivery of Jack Bailey tribute Teddy Bears, to Hope Children's Center included a police escort and went so very well. Over 400 items were delivered to a very grateful community organization. Our involvement in the Oregon Brews and BBQ put on by Burt's BBQ, was an outstanding success, netting the Legion more than \$4,500 plus in proceeds coming back to the Post. Plus, Sheridan hometown days poker run and Veterans fishing event so much to accomplish on one weekend. Be proud of your involvement and successes.

As always, the friendships developed among us and our involvement with our Post and community remains our #1 goal.

Respectfully:
Gale Sears, Director





Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
						1 Cancer Bingo 1:00 PM
2 Legion Bingo 1:00 PM	3	4 4th of July BBQ 11:00 AM	5 SON's 6:30 PM	6	7 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Legion KP 5:00 PM	8
9 Legion Bingo 1:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Auxiliary KP 5:00 PM	15
16 Legion Bingo 1:00 PM	17 Activities Committee 5:00 PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM	18 Auxiliary 6:00 PM	19 General Membership 6:30 PM	20	21 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Sons KP 5:00 PM	22
23 Legion Bingo 1:00 PM	24	25	26 Legion Rider Meeting 7:00 PM	27	28 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Riders KP 5:00 PM	29
30 Korean War Breakfast Legion Bingo 1:00 PM	31					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Scott Allen, Robert Andrade, Jim Baker, Larry Beaudry, Hayden Bonnett, Harley Bowlin, Carol Brown, Steve Carter, Don Cronin, Mike Davis, Brian DeKar, Edgar Doughty, Randi Douglas, Steve Featherstone, David Feist, Dana Flemming, Isobel Flores, Alan French, Frank Gabriel, James Galbreath, Debra Godwin, Daniel Guthrie, Robert Harmon, Dorothy Henderson, Steve Hesseling, Bill Hurliman, Rory Lay, Sklar Levitt, Chester McDonough, Rich McJunkin, Wallace Meekers, Gene Menke, Richard Moffitt, Jeffrey Monahan, Ursula Niedzialek, Gil Obregon, Juan Palacios, Wade Pankey, Chris Parks, Chuck Pattishall Bruce Petersen, Armand Pilotte, Phil Prater, Richard Randall, Robert Rapp, Mike Reed, Teri Richards, Kenneth Rogers, Allen Schmidt, Thomas Self, Mike Slipper, Jordan Taaffle, Curtis Talmadge, Rudy Taron, Jacob Trimbler, Chris Trudo, Austin Warner, Harold Weinrich

AMERICAN LEGION – POST 21
126 NE ATLANTIC STREET
McMINNVILLE, OR 97128
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VETSCLUB21@GMAIL.COM

OFFICERS

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Juan Palacios
1st Vice – Paul Krutsch
2nd Vice – Jim Connelly
JAG – Steve Randles
Finance – Cheryl Saville-Miller
Adjutant – Shirley Brown
Sgt. at Arms – Armond Pilotte
Historian – Leroy Brown
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton
Service Officer – Chris Dauterman
At Large – Mike Billings
At Large – Bruce Peterson
At Large – Gale Sears

AUXILIARY

President – Debra Godwin
Vice President – Goya Hernandez
Treasurer – Becky Berweger
Secretary – Becky Berweger
Membership – Jenni Burkhead
Historian – Glenna Smith
Service Officer – Carol Doege
Chaplain – Susan Haley
Sgt. at Arms – Gail Wilson

Sons of the American Legion

Commander – Del White
1st Vice – Bill Lindeman
2nd Vice – Steve Kindel
Finance – Terry Naig
Adjutant – Terry Naig
Chaplain – Pete Jensen
Sgt. at Arms – Brandon Lepkowski

The American Legion Riders

Director – Gale Sears
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.



Pictures from “Take a Soldier Fishing” July 17th. Jim Connelly, Dr. Kenneth Schmidt, Dan Brown and Bob Berweger made a great crew and managed to feed about 100 Veterans families and friends.



