

126 Atlantic Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
503-435-2218 vetsclub.org  
vetsclub21@gmail.com

**Commander:** As most of you know Saturday September 19th the Riders had their Scholarship Poker Run after a delay for fire smoke and poor air conditions. They had great turnout and a great time was had by all from the breakfast to the ride to the barbeque. It was a well set up event even after a week delay. The help with the clean-up afterwards was outstanding. This event would not have been possible without the help of our Auxiliaries and Son's families and our members at large. This was truly an American Legion event and all volunteers should be proud of how well it turned out.

**Riders:** Thank you, thank you, thank you! What a great Post 21 ALR Scholarship Fund event we had on September 19th, and we owe it all to the volunteers, donors, and guests who made it great. Even with the shorter planning year due to COVID-19 and the one-week delay due to wildfires, we had a great turnout of Riders and drivers from all over the region.

Please take a moment and read the Scholarship Raffle Prize Donors section in this newsletter. If and when you get a chance, please thank these individuals and businesses for contributing to help Yamhill County youth get a higher education.

It was a great ride out to Tillamook and back, though a little drizzly on the turn back east for some of us. No injuries were reported other than a bike tip-over in Beaver. (Rule 99: Put the kickstand down before dismounting.) The committees and families pitched in tremendously to make sure everything ran smoothly before and after the ride.

As we head into fall weather, we're looking forward to pitching in around the Post and giving back to the families who so graciously shared their time for our event. Speaking of the seasons changing, remember that many Riders are out there all year round, whenever there's a decent day for biking. Please keep an eye out for us and we'll do the same.

*Paul Schnell, Director.*



### Donations for the Scholarship Poker Run

#### Businesses

Beer Station (Junction City)  
Carlton Corners Restaurant  
Carlton Winery Lofts  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Spirit Mountain Casino  
Cycle Country Salem  
The Eagle's Nest  
Hawg Haven Leathers (Salem)  
Horseradish Restaurant (Carlton)  
Ken Wright Cellars  
Michelbook Country Club  
NW Food and Gifts  
Pacific Fir Lumber  
Meyers Woodline  
Sheridan Building Materials

#### Families and Individuals

The Amodeos  
The Berwegers  
The Brown  
Jim Connelly  
Denny Dartnell  
Robert De Kar & Tammy Gibson  
Sam Fields  
Jerry George  
John George  
The Hydes  
Steve Kindel  
Don McGuiness  
The Schnells  
Sim Sears  
Bob Wilson

**Auxiliary:** This year we will be concentrated our Annual Christmas basket efforts on not only helping veteran families with needs during the holiday's we will be going to local care facilities to help the resident veterans.

Go to the Post website at [vetsclub.org](http://vetsclub.org) where you can download the application. We would love help from all the families as the holidays will be here soon. More updates to follow.



## American Legion Auxiliary Food Drive

126 Atlantic Street, McMinnville  
American Legion Post #21

Now to Dec 13th.



*Please bring non-perishable food items*

- CANNED MEAT (HAM, TUNA, CHICKEN, SPAM)
- MEAL KITS THAT DON'T REQUIRE EXTRA INGREDIENTS.  
(INSTANT POTATOES, RICE, INSTANT SOUPS/RAMEN)
- PANCAKE AND MUFFIN MIX
- CEREAL • PASTA SAUCE • MAC & CHEESE
- CANNED SOUPS, CHILI AND PASTA MEALS.
- CANNED FRUITS AND APPLESAUCE
- PUDDING, JELL-O, FRUIT CUPS
- PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY / JAM
- CANNED/BOXED JUICES
- FLOUR, SUGAR, RICE, DRY BEANS, PASTA, OIL
- SEASONINGS

Support American Legion Unit 21 Auxiliary as we support our local Veterans and community. -

CONTACT: BECKY BERWEGER 503-434-1834 OR AMERICAN LEGION 503-435-2218 FOR FURTHER INFO

**Adjutant:** Thank you to those who have renewed their membership. We are now at 59%. Please consider renewing your membership sooner rather than later.

*Adjutant, Shirley Brown*

## Renew Your Membership



**Sons:** The SAL has been looking for a date to have the Oyster Feed, but things keep happening. When things settle down, we will have the Oyster Feed, thanks for your patience.

Look for the piggy banks and drop your change in. The SAL has chosen Juliette's House as our benefactor for the piggy banks you will soon be seeing.

Juliette's House is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support and treatment for children and families who may have been impacted by child abuse.



The members of the SAL thank you for your support and remind everyone to stay healthy and wear a mask to make everyone healthier.

*Terry Naig, SAL Commander, POST 21*

**Honor Guard:** In July the Honor Guard performed a rifle salute for PFC Alexander Klass – a fallen soldier from Kosovo.

The United Veterans Honor Guard of Post 21 was very busy in August. The Honor Guard performed full military honors for the following Veterans.

Robert Johnston an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Army Veteran at St. James Cemetery on August 17, 2020.

Robert Russell a Korean War Veteran at Pike Cemetery on August 22, 2020.

Carl Webb a World War II Merchant Marine at Yamhill Carlton Cemetery on August 22, 2020.

David Taylor an Air Force veteran at his home on August 24, 2020.

The Honor Guard also performed a flag raising ceremony for a World War II Navy veteran at his home.

In support of 9/11 Patriots Day, the Honor Guard performed a 911 Ceremony at the American Legion Memorial Post 173 in Carlton and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Oregon Commander for the 911 Ceremonies.

*Juan Palacios, United Veterans Honor Guard*



# ***U.S. Navy Destroyer Sunk in World War II Is Found 20,000 Feet Under the Sea***

In October 2019 Marine archaeologists announced that they have found the wreckage of a World War II destroyer sunk almost exactly 75 years ago.

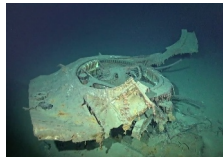
The debris—spotted at a depth of 20,400 feet, making it the deepest shipwreck discovered to date—is believed to be all that remains of the U.S.S. *Johnston* DD-557, which was destroyed by Japanese warships in the Battle off Samar on October 25, 1944. The Battle off Samar was one of four military engagements in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, a major aerial and naval conflict won by Allied forces.

The research vessel responsible for capturing footage of the sunken destroyer, is the subject of a new expedition video posted on Facebook by [Vulcan Inc.](#), which owns and operates the vehicle. Researchers released the film to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the *Johnston*'s sinking and seek the public's help in confirming the ship's identity.

Although the archaeologists were able to determine that the wreck belonged to a Fletcher-class destroyer, they remain uncertain whether the debris in question represents the *Johnston* or the U.S.S. *Hoel* DD-533, another destroyer sunk at Samar.

The archeologists believe it to be that of the USS Johnston DD-557 as there is no evidence of the dazzle paint scheme, indicative of the USS Hoel and its location suggests this wreck sank later in the battle, after the loss of the Hoel."

The wreck is in extremely poor shape there are multiple mangled chunks of debris, some of which even the WWII shipwreck experts who conducted the mission can't identify. The wreck is completely decimated, it is just debris. There is no hull structure.



The damage is so extensive that no easy identifiers remain visible (like the number 557 on the hull or the ship's name etched onto equipment). The researchers strongly suspect the vessel is the *Johnston* based on the location in which it was found and color differences between the two destroyers.

They took many photographs of the wreckage at the edge of an underwater precipice called Emden Deep, but the researchers say additional debris may be found at even greater depths. The extreme depth created challenges that impacted their ability to operate and obtain the typical, high quality survey they strive for.

Unlike the other three skirmishes in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the Battle off Samar found U.S. forces largely unprepared. But despite being outnumbered by the Japanese, a task force unit dubbed Taffy 3 (including, among others, the *Johnston* and the *Hoel*) went on the offensive, inflicting significant damage on the enemy's warships. Although five of Taffy 3's vessels ultimately sank, the losses incurred by the Japanese forces prevented the Axis Powers from cutting off U.S. landing forces in the Leyte Gulf.

Of the *Johnston*'s [327-person crew](#), 186 died at Samar or in the sinking. Ernest E. Evans, the ship's commander and the first Native American member of the Navy to earn the [Medal of Honor](#), was among the casualties.

The Battle of Samar and the Battle of Leyte Gulf as a whole were turning points in the Pacific Theater. U.S. forces displayed tremendous courage despite being outnumbered. They were hopelessly outclassed, but they fought anyway.

As the *Johnston* was sinking, the crew of a Japanese destroyer saluted the vessel and the sailors in the water, paying tribute to their bravery.

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## **The Battle off Samar October 25, 1944**



**USS JOHNSTON – DD-557**



**USS HOEL – DD-533**







A summary of the most recent identified  
POW/MIA.

## World War II

**Navy Musician 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Joseph Hoffman – 24.** Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for September 8, 2020.

**Navy Mess Attendant 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Isaac Parker – 17.** Lost December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for September 8, 2020.

**Army Pvt., Warren DeVault – 24.** Lost November 20, 1944 when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces in the Hürtgen Forest, Germany. Accounted for September 14, 2020.

**Navy Electrician's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Alphard Owsley – 23.** Lost December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for September 8, 2020.

**Army Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gabriel Eggud – 25.** Lost July 6, 1944 during a combat mission over Wewak, New Guinea when his P-39 fighter exploded after releasing a bomb. Accounted for September 17, 2020.

## Korean War

**Army Pfc., Bobbie Ray Daniels – 17.** Lost May 1, 1953, when his unit was engaged in battle near Waegwan, South Korea. Accounted for September 21, 2020.

**Army Pvt., Donald Fabrize – 17.** Lost July 16, 1950 when his unit was defending positions along the Kum River, South Korea. Accounted for July 16, 1950.

## Vietnam War

**US Air Force Major Paul Avolese – 35.** Lost July 7, 1967 as part of the crew of a B-52D Stratofortress bomber conducting a mission in Vietnam. Accounted for September 21, 2020.



## Task Force Taffy-3 The Battle off Samar, October 25, 1944

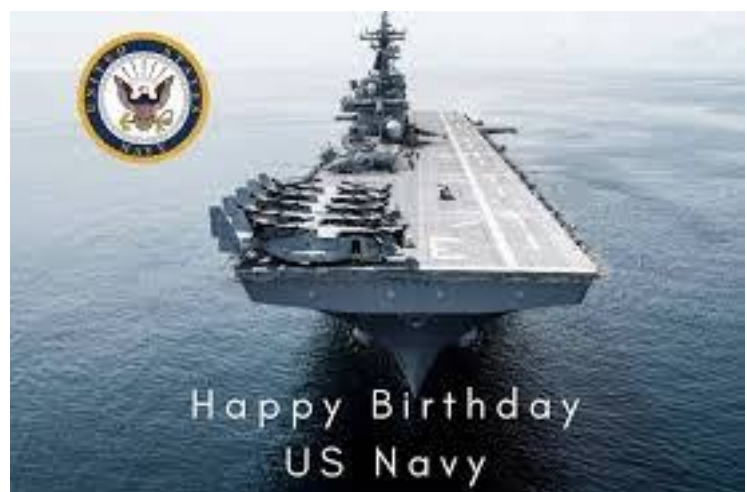
*This will be a fight against overwhelming odds from which survival cannot be expected, but we will do what damage we can – Lt. Commander Robert Copeland, USS Samuel B. Roberts.*

Taffy-3 was not designed to engage enemy warships in combat. Comprised of just six carrier escorts, three destroyers, and four destroyer escorts, Taffy-3's primary mission was to protect the two hundred thousand American soldiers and marines fighting on Leyte Island. Defeat here would give Japanese admiral Kurita's battleships a free run to annihilate the landing craft and troop transports currently ferrying reinforcements and supplies to the island, massacring an entire division of US Marines and crippling the operation to retake the Philippines and quite possibly turning the tide of the war in the Pacific.

On October 24, 1944 when Taffy-3's commander received a radio call from one of his reconnaissance pilots reporting a heavily armed escort of battle cruisers was bearing down on a collision course with Taffy-3 he was concerned. There wasn't anything he could do about it-the Japanese battleship Yamato was out there, accompanied by three massive battleships, eight cruisers, and eleven destroyers, closing fast on its position.

In a two and a half hour battle off the coast of Samar Island, the Americans lost four ships, the destroyers Johnston and Hoel, the destroyer escort Samuel B. Roberts, and the escort carrier Gambier Bay. The Japanese suffered similar losses, two cruisers (Chokai and Chikuma) were destroyed, two more (Kumano and Suzuya) were badly damaged, and the battleship Haruma sustained severe damage to her superstructure and hull. Taffy-3 had somehow held off the largest gunship fleet ever assembled, and they'd done it with just six escort carrier and seven destroyers.

Taffy-3 suffered 792 men dead and 768 wounded, and survivors were stuck spending seventy hours in shark-infested waters before being rescued. But, against all odds, they had accomplished their mission. The carriers and the Leyte landing craft were safe, and the Japanese had been turned back in one of the most heroic naval battles. The entire unit received the Presidential Unit Citation, and Captain Evans of the USS Johnston was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



# October

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



Daniel Abbe, Jose Aguilera, Mike Balcombe, Barbara Bowar, William Bracken, Stephanie Bush, Thomas Butler, Chad Cape, Thomas Clayton, William Curtis, Scott Doyle, Steven Draper, Wayne Frank, Michael Gunn, Peter Harris, Travis Hayes, Eugene Henderson, Brad Hodges, Forrest Jacks, Ed Kaleta, Chris Kemper, Steve Kindel, Willy Koch, Paul Krutsch, Evan Maihack, Glen McBee, Paul Moore, Mike Morris, Mike Paul, Russell Port, Richard Powell, John Richards, Dale Service, Derick Sherburne, Jacob Stacy, Paul Tilp, Robert West, Roy Whitman, Rhonda "Joyce" Yeaman

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## OFFICERS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Steve Farley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Paul Schnell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Terry Ward  
JAG – Steve Randles  
Finance – Gale Sears  
Adjutant – Shirley Brown  
Sgt at Arms – Jim Connelly  
Historian – Leroy Brown  
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton  
At Large – Robert De Kar  
At Large – Jeanne Clayton  
At Large – Vacant

### AUXILIARY

President – Debra Godwin  
Vice – Glena Smith  
Treasurer – Becky Berweger  
Secretary – Tracy Wittrock  
Chaplain – Jeanne Clayton  
Historian – Goya Hernandez  
Sgt at Arms – Mike Gregory  
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 – Paul Schnell  
Asst. Director – Gale Sears  
Secretary – Leanne Schnell  
Treasurer – Mike Paul  
Sgt at Arms – Jack Bailey  
Historian – Jim Connelly  
Chaplain – Rod Moore



Pull for the  
House.



## Wanted: Pull tabs

Any questions contact Mike Gregory!

### Did You Know?

1 inch = 1 pull tab  
1 foot = 12 pull tabs  
1 mile = 63,360 pull tabs  
1 pound = 1,267 pull tabs  
1 million tabs = 730 pounds  
730 pounds = Approx. \$219 - \$365



Each year, the Pull Tab program raises nearly three thousand dollars which is used towards the operating budget and helps defer the cost for families staying at the houses.

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

**Vetsclub21.org**