



Post 379

COMMANDERS CORNER

Welcome Everybody,

I am honored to be the commander of post 379. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone, I'm Tim Gatton I served 21 years of active duty in the Army retiring as a Sergeant First Class in 2015. I have lived in Yakima since 2011 and have been a member of Post 379 since 2012, I have been a VFW member since 2002 originally in Wiesbaden Germany then as a member of post 2224 in Puyallup while stationed at Fort Lewis. I am married to the beautiful LeNee Gatton and have two great daughters Anne, and Grace. LeNee and I got married my first year in the Army. Again I am honored to be the commander of post 379, and will do my very best to help make the post successful. I look forward to meeting all of you at the post in the near future. If anyone has ideas for how we can make the post better please feel free to contact me.

I would like to thank past commander Al Pineda for the outstanding job he has done over the past two years, my goal is to meet the high standard that Al set as commander. Thank you Al for a job well done.

I would also like to thank all of our members, both post and auxiliary who work hard to make the post successful and I ask for your support as we move forward.

We have one of the best VFW posts in the state and I encourage everyone to come down and enjoy the camaradery. Thank you for your support.

Tim Gatton
Commander
VFW Post 379

Coming Soon

Your VFW Post 379 is putting together a comprehensive list of options for Veterans and their families to receive needed support in the Yakima area.. The VFW does more for our Veterans.

William Wharton

Post 379

Post Script

July-Aug

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Members:

As I begin my service as your Auxiliary President I would like to thank Past President, Sami Church, for her strong leadership and support during this past year. I would also like to thank the past years' Officers and Committees for supporting our Auxiliary.

For our upcoming events, Dessert night will still be the last Thursday of the month with the Auxiliary members providing pies and other desserts. Proceeds will go to support National Home.

Our Memorial Day Poppy drive was very successful and I would like to thank all of the Auxiliary members who volunteered their time in this effort.

We look forward to information from the State Convention held in Vancouver June 19-23rd. Several of our members and officers will be in attendance.

As incoming Auxiliary President, I look forward this year to working with Officers and Committees of the Auxiliary and the Post to support the Post and our Veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Dawson, Auxiliary President

PTSD

PTSD is real. It has had different names over the years, Shell Shock, Battle Fatigue, etc. If the trial of any war has effected your quality of life you have PTSD. Help is available through the VA and their support groups. Contact the VETS Center in Yakima at 509-457-2736

CLUB MANAGER

Welcome To Summer

If you are dreading the “hot” days of summer, remember the Club is always cool and comfortable and your favorite beverages are cold and waiting for you along with delicious food.

The summer months tend to be rather slow business wise so we are going to be closed on Thursday, July 4th but will be open on the 5th with our regular dinner menu and music by Rock Garden. We may make some changes to our business hours during these summer months. Watch for more information to be posted at the Post.

Please remember when bringing groups of six or more to the Club for lunch or dinner, a reservation is appreciated. Because we operate with a very small staff a phone call ahead of time allows us to be better prepared to serve all our customers.

Thursday night dinner recap:

7-4 Closed

7-11 French Dips

7-18 Fish & Chips w/ slaw and salad

7-25 Steak

8-1 Meat loaf

8/8 Baked Ham

8/15 Fruit & Salad Buffet

8/22 Pork Loin

8/29 Steak

Things to remember:

\$1.00 domestic drafts on Mondays

Happy Hour all day on Wednesday

Rock Garden Fridays at 7:00 pm

Funeral Team Fundraiser – SUCCESS & THANKS

What a SUCCESS! We would like to thank all who contributed, campaigned, and secured donations. Internally our Post **Communications Working Group (CWG)** was hard at work with tremendous support from **Sarah Garcia and the entire Field Group Marketing Team** – thank you. These CWG folks helped to advertise and coordinate this fundraising effort. A special thanks goes out to **Danny and Valerie Day** who graciously made a matching contribution of \$10,000 once the Post raised the first \$10K. Thank you all for your support of this wonderful fundraiser. We raised **\$21982.08!**

Perry Tech

Adam Rieker, the **Perry Tech** Veterans Representative, dove in to support the Post by having a device built by **Irwin Research** to aid and assist us in hanging our **Honor Wall** plates. The device ensures the honor plates are hung straight and appropriately spaced. Thank you to **Adam, and the staff at Perry Tech, and Irwin Research!**

VFW Post 379 & American Legion Post 36 - Combined Arms RAF-FLE Results:

The two Posts, for each of their respective organizations, hosted a combined **raffle for three firearms** this Spring. The winners were drawn following the **Memorial Day Service at Post 379**. The raffle was success garnering \$3440.00 dollars for Post 379. We would especially like to thank the **Steadman and Higin Families** for their gracious donations of the firearms, and we would also like to thank everyone who purchased tickets.

Here is your District 17 White Hat winners for 2018-2019

Trina Parrish, Walla Walla

Al Pineda, Commander Yakima

Del Gilliland, Quartermaster Yakima



FUNERAL TEAM

VFW Post 379 participated in 18 funerals during April and May. This brings the total so far to 36 for the year. The Funeral Team donations went very well. Thank you to all that donated! Especially the matching donor!!! Thank you to Al Pineda who came up with the idea. Good job Al.

CHRISTMAS HONOR FAMILY

We are honoring a Veteran family with Christmas blessing. Tim Gatton is in charge of identifying the honor family for us. Once we get a family and it is closer to fall, we will put up a Christmas tree with ornaments on it. The ornaments will have boy or girl, a name, age, and a Christmas wish. The wish may be a toy or an article of clothing. Our goal is to have 3-5 gifts for each family member.

The gifts need to be brought to the VFW, unwrapped, with the ornament taped to the gift. We will have a "wrapping" party in December. Wrapping paper will be provided. Day and time will be decided at a later date.

On December 20th at 6:00 the VFW will have a Christmas party. The family will be invited and the children may open some presents. If all goes well Santa will join us. More information will be coming as time progresses. Carolyn and Dave Curry

Honor Wall is taking shape. We have 20 more plaques coming. Our creative team came up with a great design. Stop by to see the Wall or put yourself or a loved one on the Wall. This is a Post fundraiser for needed current and future repair needs. Del



INDIAN JOHN

Friday August 16, 17 and 18 2019 are the dates of our yearly coffee fundraiser at Indian John Rest Area (Eastbound). As usual we need cookies, donations and the most important is people to man the coffee stand. We need 22 people to cover the shifts. We won't be doing the midnight to six shift. The shifts are 6 hours and 2 people per shift. SO, if you have a friend that you would like to work with sign up together!! The sign-up sheet will be out mid-July.

This is a nice fundraiser for the Post. Please mark the date so that you will be available to help. If you have any questions please contact Chairman Leo Wright 509-697-3456. Your help is appreciated!!!

VFW ACTION CORP

VA Implements New Health Care Programs: This week, VA began the implementation of two key aspects of the VFW-supported VA MISSION Act. Starting this week, veterans will have the opportunity to visit a [network of urgent care and walk-in clinics](#) throughout the country. [Certain veterans](#) will be given three free urgent care visits per year, but all veterans would pay \$30 per additional visit — regardless of priority group or service-connection. VA has also replaced the Veterans Choice Program with the new [Veterans Community Care Program](#). The new program includes six eligibility criteria, which provide veterans the option to use community care (private-sector doctors and other federal health care facilities) when VA is unable to provide needed services, if it is in the veteran's best medical interest, if veterans live in a state without a full-service VA medical center, if VA is unable to meet quality or access standards, and others.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

William Wharton Post 379

118 S. 5th Ave

Yakima, WA 98902

509-457-5400

vfw379@gmail.com

Vfw379.org

All Veterans that have been awarded a disability of 70% or above are eligible to stay in any of the Veterans homes at no charge to the Veteran or their families. This also allows short term stays if rooms are available. Washington State has homes in Walla Walla, Orting, Spokane, and Port Orchard.

Post 379 is trying to move into the modern age. We are setting the Post Script in a E-mail version. This will be in color and have more content. We can update the Post Calendar as often as is required to keep up with changing events. Sign up at the Post or send me your email address to vfw379@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook and check out the web page. Vfw379.org

WENESDAY WINGS

Commander Tim wants to start having a wing day starting July 17th. Details are still in the works. Stay tuned for more info.

FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

For our annual members, please check your renewal date for your membership. We don't want your membership to lapse.

I don't like to be the bearer of bad news but as the man paying the bills I *must* once in awhile. Due to a large increase in minimum wage starting Jan 1, prices will be going up. Sorry for any distress this causes you. We will do it in increments so as not to sticker shock you on Jan 1.

OUR GREAT SPONSORS

Field Group

Carey Motors

Rays Retail Meats

Brumback Law Group

FUNERAL TEAM & HONOR GUARD

The VFW Post 379 Funeral Team and Honor Guard provides Military Honors for over 100 Veterans every year. We need help! Our goal is to have two full teams, that is 22 people. If are interested in helping with a great cause please call Russ McLaughlin @961-2007 or talk to any team member. Thank you .

Rick Beck

POST 379 OFFICERS

Commander Tim Gatton

Sr-vice Shad Kautzman

Jr-vice Mike Fezer

Quartermaster Del Gilliland

Adjutant Del Gilliland

Judge Advocate Fred Camerer

H & C Chairman

Aux Officers

President Judy Dawson

Sr-vice Mary Martinez

Jr-vice Trina Garlock

Treasurer Annette Buck

Secretary Bunny Gaither

Did you know that you can support the USO just by texting on your phone. Tito's vodka will donate to the USO for every text they receive.

To support USO text USO @ 31996. you will have to enter your zip code the first time. You can text once a day.



Blue Water Navy Act Now Law!

VFW-championed legislation will benefit tens of thousands of veterans and dependent children

WASHINGTON (June 26, 2019) – The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting the president for signing the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019* into law last night.

“Tens of thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans of the Vietnam War and dependent children born with spina bifida due to a parent’s toxic exposure will now benefit from this new law,” exclaimed VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence, “and the VFW is proud to have helped lead the charge to return these benefits to these deserving veterans and to expand existing benefits to dependent children. We look forward to the Department of Veterans Affairs publishing implementation guidance on their website very soon.”

The VFW-championed *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019*, or H.R. 299, restores VA benefits to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes. It benefits veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ with an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested — to Sept. 1, 1967, instead of April 1, 1968 — and expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent’s exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The new law also requires the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia, which is important for future legislative efforts to create a list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking VA health care and benefits.

“The VFW is proud of the 116th Congress for ending this benefits inequity, and we salute President Trump for quickly signing H.R. 299 into law,” said Lawrence.

Though the following VA webpages have yet to be updated to reflect the new law, veterans and their families can learn more about benefits associated with [Agent Orange exposure here](#), and about [spina bifida birth defects related to exposure here](#). For assistance in filing claims, Call your VFW Service Officer.