



Post 379

COMMANDERS CORNER

Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to report that the VFW Department Mid-Winter conference was a great success. Several of our members displayed exceptional efforts in relationship building by being completely engaged in the conference activities. The current and upcoming Department and National Leadership voiced their appreciation and pride in the efforts of our Post and Auxiliary. I want to make a special recognition to those who facilitated conference registration, raffles, grab bags, JROTC presentation of the Colors, Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy, House and Club Staff, and in general a great turn out and dinner on Friday night.

A congratulations is due for VFW Post 379 Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner for WA State Natalie Keller and Patriot Pen 1st Place recipient Lizzie Mills. Both will continue to compete at the National Level!

Above are just two examples of things that we are doing right in Post 379. Promoting and being involved with our members' time and monetary donations is the only reason these programs are successful. I am often surprised how many ideas and efforts our Veterans and Auxiliary are involved in compared to the amount of members who actually show up and contribute their efforts. If there is a program you would like to lead or participate in, please attend the monthly meeting and help set the direction of our efforts and then get in the boat and help row.

So what is next is what is next. I am sad to report that we had 82 Members pass away in 2021. Some of these were significant contributors to the Post and Aux and were vocal supporters of the VFW. National levels have dipped below 1Million members. The results of our National level membership numbers below 1M is that we will lose our dedicated day in Congress for Veteran issues. On 9 March at 0600 we will host KIT 1280 at the Post for a remote broadcast. We will be highlighting our community and National level efforts. The intent is to recruit new members and hopefully re-engage current or past members. There is also a program that recognizes our members as Legacy Members. Being a Legacy Member sustains that Veterans name and funding on our roster forever. We have members that have contributed significantly in their lives to this country and should have their story remembered for others. After the broadcast we will move into a recruiting Tele-thon and then move into the 2nd Weds of the month meetings and submit new applicants for membership. Please put this date on your calendars and we are hoping to have numerous brothers and sisters helping. No need to RSVP, just show up with your phone, pen and a motivated demeanor.

Comments to the Commander: In this section I would like to highlight some of the topics or efforts that our members are concerned with and additional programs that I know are available.

1. VFW Action Corp. Sign up for notifications of ongoing legislative efforts at VFW.org. When you are notified of issues that need support for Veterans Causes, then you email and call your elected officials to solicit support. This alone is a #1 reason to be an active member of the VFW. The VFW is not about sitting at the bar drinking. That is a good place to gather to discuss these issues and efforts and how to support all Veterans.

2. Please sign in your guests as this is a Liquor control requirement for Private Clubs.

3. We are working on the ability to have virtual electronic attendance to Post Meetings. We are evaluating the most cost effective way to facilitate this.

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William Wharton

Post 379

Post Script

Jan-Feb 2022

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello Auxiliary members,

Our members have been staying busy in the Community for our Veterans and their families. In January the Mid-Winter Conference was held at the Yakima Convention Center. Our members Carrol Vetter, Sami Church, Joy Miller, Ellena Hazen, Renee Saunders, Susan Lippincott and Judy Dawson participated in Grab Bag donations, and the Buddy Poppy contest. Carrol was in charge of Registration and Sami and Judy assisted her and also filled the gift bags with a variety of items for the attendees. Judy secured a box of Gala apples donated by Zirkle Fruit Company in Selah, Tree Top Fruit Company in Selah donated bags of apple chips and fruit juice boxes. AAA in Yakima donated pens and magazines, Carrol also made the 30 centerpieces that were the idea of our Department Auxiliary State President Barbara Moore who provided the centerpiece items. The theme was "Sticking our Necks out for our Veterans" and included a turtle flying a Navy jet. The centerpieces were on the tables at the Voice of Democracy Banquet. During the Banquet our Voice of Democracy State winner Natalie Keller from Selah High School received a check for \$ 1700.00. Our Patriot Pen State winner, Lizzie Mills, from East Valley Middle School received a check for \$500.00. Natalie and Lizzie's winning essays will be judged for a National award in Washington D.C. We are very proud of them.

We are accepting entries for Young American Art for students in grades 9-12. Students in grades K - 8 can enter for Illustrating America. The National Anthem Singing contest is open to students in grades K to 12. The Deadline for all 3 of the Contests is March 31, 2022. Ellena Hazen, Patriotic Committee Chair was able to contact students in the Home School Association.

Susan Lippincott, Community Outreach Chair was able to hold a second Cookie Blitz in January. This time 10 Auxiliary members and friends made and packaged 974 cookies. The cookies were distributed to the area Police Departments. Susan took the cookies to Police Departments in Tieton, Yakima, Moxie and the Yakima Sheriff's Office. Judy took cookies to the Selah Police Department. Members Joy Miller and Myrna Pitts distributed cookies to the Police Departments in the Lower Valley.

At our Auxiliary meeting in February, members brought and signed 50 Valentine Cards that were sent to the VA Hospitals in Seattle, Spokane, Walla Walla, Vancouver and Wenatchee.

Our final District 17 meeting will be held on April 23 at our VFW Post #379 at 12:00 pm. We will be holding Elections of Officers.

REMINDER: Please send your membership renewal of \$25.00 to Annette Buck, 1302 Rock Ave. Yakima, 98902 as soon as possible!!

Many thanks to the efforts of our Auxiliary members. See you at the Ball!

Auxiliary President, Judy Dawson

CLUB MANAGER

The turn out for our Super Bowl Party was great. Lots of good food, door prizes and most of all terrific people. Thanks to everyone that participated.

St. Patrick's Day is coming. Mark your calendars and plan to attend on Thursday March 17th. We will be serving our traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage with red potatoes and carrots.

In an effort to keep our Friday night entertainment fresh we will be hosting a new band during the month of May. We hope everyone will continue to support this effort.

Thursday Night Dinner Recap:

- 03/03 Meatloaf
- 03/10 Baked Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
- 03/17 Corned Beef & Cabbage
- 03/24 Spaghetti & Meatballs
- 03/31 Steak
- 04/07 Pork Chops
- 04/14 Open Face Hot Beef
- 04/21 Country Fried Steak
- 04/28 Steak

CLUB HOURS

Closed: Monday, Saturday

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,

2:00pm to close

Open Sunday 8:00am to 12:00pm

Breakfast is served from 8 to 11

We will be open at other times for special events. Watch your calendar, the Facebook page or the web site to keep up to date.



Come on down March 17th

6:00pm

Corn Beef & Cabbage

Green beer

Drink Specials

Commander cont.

4. We are re-establishing the communications committee. I intend to appoint an Adjutant in April that will be the Chairperson.

5. Post nominations will be conducted at the March meeting. If you are interested in leading efforts within the Post, please attend so you can be nominated. I intend on building an active team that participates and leads.

6. Members have expressed a desire to have entertainment options on a rotating basis. If you know of bands or DJ's who are interested in playing at the VFW, please have them contact Janet and House and Club.

7. Meat Raffle is a donation from Rays Retail Meats. Please support this business with your business and give them a Thank You when you do. Also, it was recently voted on that the meat raffle helps support Friday night entertainment. So please support the meat raffle and not only help pay for the band, but have a chance to take home a sample of the quality meats that Ray's donates every week.

8. I have been asked about Red shirt Fridays several times. It is a bit ironic that on these Friday night comments that neither person was wearing Red. This is a tradition to remember service members currently serving. Please wear Red on Fridays if so inclined. Thanks.

9. Saturday Days and Saturday Nights are Banquet and Special Event nights. These are either hosted by the VFW for Members and Guests or they are PRIVATE CLOSED EVENTS. The banquet hall is a Saturday money maker by donations for our Post. Please respect private party privacy.

10. Constitution 101, The Federalist Papers, Civics, Center for Self Governance Sessions pending scheduling. Looking for suggestions for which night / day and time. Facilitators wanted.

11. Dance Classes: soliciting input on when and how to execute these events. 1800 after Thursday Dinner? 1700 on Wing Night? Swingin and Wingin Wednesdays?

12. Kids entertainment area? Pool Room? Video Games? Virtual Reality Gaming? Darts? Toy Box located in the Dining room corner?

13. UFC Fight Nights?

14. Big name Veteran Guest speaker planning is underway. Intent is to promote Americanism / Patriotism. Admission will be required.

Dates to remember:

7MAR 1000 Property Work Day.. Monday prior to the Monthly meeting night.

9MAR 0600-1600 KIT 1280 Recruiting Drive / 1730 House and Club meeting (Members Welcome to attend) 1900 Joint Post and Aux Opening

16 MAR and 20 APR 1000hrs and 1900 hrs. 3rd Weds each month. Dept CDR Zoom Mtg 830-9932-2478 passcode 123456

30MAR 1800: Yakima County Bike Night

9APR 1700: Soul Food Dinner hosted by the Funeral Team

13APR 1730 House and Club meeting (Members Welcome to attend) 1900 Joint Post and Aux Opening

23APR 1200: District 17 meeting and lunch. Elections

23APR 1800-2200 Yellow Ribbon, Deployment Welcome Home, Inherent Resolve, Open to Members and their Guests. Food is served only for the private event attendees. DJ music.

Steven L. Saunders, Post 379 Commander, 360-269-9529

SERVICE OFFICE

The Yakima Service office is busy and with spring on the forefront, we anticipate more veterans and families needing assistance. Nadine continues to be the only Accredited Service Officer in the greater Central Washington area with VA security access to the Veterans Benefits Administration's claims system. This access is invaluable as she is able to research claim history, and monitor current claims, while assisting claimants.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) recently proposed changes to the evaluation ratings for some service-connected issues. Currently rated issues will not be reviewed for changes in evaluation, unless the veteran asks for a review. The proposed changes require a lengthy public input period, followed by testimony of the VFW National Service office and other service organizations. It will be at least several months, and most likely longer, before any changes become effective.

Department Service Officer, Todd Gruchalla, recognized Nadine as the second quarter high-achieving Service Officer. Nadine was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a cash bonus. This is the second quarter in a row that Nadine has been recognized for her service.

VETERANS SERVICES INFORMATION SEMINAR

The Yakima VFW Service Office, along with other service providers, will be hosting an "Information Seminar" on Tuesday, March 18, 2022, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., at VFW Post 379. Claims, funeral services, and health insurance will be discussed. The Information Seminar is free to VFW members and the public.

Disability Claims, VA Pensions, Survivor Benefits and Burial Benefits will be presented by Accredited Claims Consultant, Nadine Newman, VFW Service Officer. Pre-need funeral services will be presented by Renee Saunders, Dignity Memorial (Keith & Keith Funeral Home and Langevin El Paraiso Funeral Home). Health Insurance – how Medicare works with VA Health Care – will also be presented. Matthew McCay with Yakima Memorial Hospital will present information on services that the hospital has for veterans, and how they work with the Veterans Health Administration.

Those attending will have an opportunity to talk to each presenter individually to obtain more specific information.



Your Post 379 and State winners for VOD and Patriots Pen Natalie Keller and Lizzie Mills. Shown with Post Commander Steve Saunders, District 17 Commander Trina Parish and Post President Judy Dawson.



Tuesday nights at 5:00pm we are serving pork or beef tacos and taco salads Bud and Bud Light pounders are just \$2.00 .

Come join the fun!!!

ELECTIONS

The Post and Auxiliary will have elections in the next two months. The Post will be having first nominations at the meeting in March. The Post and Auxiliary will then hold nominations and elections at the meeting in April. The Post will be electing the following Officers. Commander, Sr-vice Commander, Jr-vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Trustee, 2 for House & club Committee, 1 for Property Committee, and 2 for Foundation Committee. The Auxiliary will be electing the following: President, Sr-vice President. Jr-vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain. Please come to the meeting and have your voice and vote count.



Join us for the first Yakima County Bike Night of the year. Come in with fellow bikers and enjoy food and beverages at the VFW. Door prizes and drinks specials.

Dinner Menu: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cole Slaw & Baked Beans

This event is open to all motorcycle enthusiasts. Everyone will need to sign in at the door.



The band "CIMMERON" is now playing Friday nights at the Post. Come on down for a great dinner and do a little dancing to work it off. We also have a jukebox for your entertainment. **LET'S ALL DANCE!!!**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

William Wharton Post 379

118 S. 5th Ave

Yakima, WA 98902

509-457-5400

vfw379@gmail.com

Vfw379.org



Win me!

This beautiful, one of a kind, table could be yours. This hand made table will be raffled off starting in March as a fundraiser for the VFW Funeral Team

Drawing on April 9th

We have 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

Veterans suicide is at an all time high. If you or someone you know is having problems and need to talk, help is available thru the VA or the Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 press 1.

FUNERAL TEAM

We need Comrades to join our team. We have lost some of our members to medical issues. We provide Military Honors to over 100 Veterans per year. We need some new blood for the rifle team and some to work into Commander and Chaplain. Please if you have an interest in honoring our passing Vets then call Russ McLaughlin at 961-2007.

OUR GREAT SPONSORS

Field Group

Rays Retail Meats

Brumback Law Group

Keith & Keith Funeral Home

CLUB NEWS

We all know that the cost of everything from meat to gas has gone up a lot in the last year. We at the VFW Post 379 are trying our best to keep costs down and not raise prices. But that may not be possible any more. We will talk about pricing at the next House & Club meeting on March 9th. I hope you all know the dilemma you see with prices for your home is the same for us but on a lot larger scale. We will continue to provide the best product for you, our Members, that we can for the best price possible.

POST 379 OFFICERS

Commander Steven Saunders

Sr-vice Roger Althoff

Jr-vice Wayne White

Quartermaster Del Gilliland

Adjutant Del Gilliland

H & C Chairman Don Welshimer

Aux Officers

President Judy Dawson

Sr-vice Susan Lippincott

Jr-vice Trina Garlock

Treasurer Annette Buck

Secretary Brandy Garner



Come down and see our new table. Absolutely beautiful. Big thanks go out to our special craftsmen. Phil, Russ, and Greg. Also thank you to all the contributors of coins and emblems.



Our frame crew from left to right:
Easton Green, Ashton Zero (Navy Recruit), John Bishop, Jeff Condardo,
Russ McLaughlin, Matt Steadman. And Hunter Steadman. Thanks for
the great Job.

Hell my fellow comrades, spouses, widows, widowers, and friends.

My name is Wayne White the Jr-vice Commander of Post 379. I want to welcome everyone to the lighted Wall of Honor. Special thanks to Duane for taking his time to make it possible for all the branches of service to be lit during operational hours of the Post. My vision for the wall is to have a little friendly competition amongst the branches of service to generate funds for the Post.

Rules of the competition:

For \$1 you can turn on the light for your branch of service. For example, I am Army and I pay the bartender \$1 to light up the Army emblem. If you serviced in a different branch you could pay \$1 to light up your light and turn off the Army light.

Someone could pay \$5 to light all the services emblems. That does not mean someone could not come along and pay\$1 to have their service light be the only one on.

Now if a person pays \$5, \$10, \$20 or more to have their service light turned on and some immediately want to light their light it would cost \$6, \$11, etc.

The funds collected from the competition will be counted at the end of the month. My goal is to collect enough money to pay our electric bill for the month.

I hope this explains how this competition works. I have seen this work at another Post and was surprised at how much money it raised. We can do the same here if we all participate to make this a fun and friendly competition.

Thank You, Wayne White, Jr-vice Commander Post 379

Attention Action Corps Members: Due to your hard work and dedicated advocacy, many provisions supporting service members, veterans, and their families were passed in the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\) for Fiscal Year 2022](#). We want to highlight a few provisions that could affect you or many of those on whose behalf you advocate. The NDAA contains over 700 provisions, including several pieces of VFW-supported legislation added as amendments:

- **Military Pay Raise.** Service members received a 2.7 percent increase in basic pay for calendar year 2022. This raise is the product of the automatic annual statutory calculation that is aligned to the Employment Cost Index.
- **Military Justice Reform** (Subtitles D and E). Sexual assault and harassment in the military are pervasive issues affecting an alarming number of service members, past and present. Provisions within these subtitles represent substantive changes in how the military handles these cases, including sexual assault investigations that will now be fully independent of chains of command.
- The **National Global War on Terrorism Memorial** (Sec. 6605). This authorizes a Global War on Terrorism memorial to be constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial for America's longest running war will be rightly placed among the war memorials of past generations so that future generations will always remember.
- The **Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act** (Sec. 641). This legislation will provide free lifetime access to national parks and public lands that honor service members, veterans, and Gold Star families. The National Park Service offered free access through their annual America the Beautiful pass, but this law now creates an enduring lifetime benefit.
- **Pilot Program on Assistance for Mental Health Appointment Scheduling at Military Medical Treatment Facilities** (Sec. 734). This establishes a pilot program to assist in scheduling mental health appointments to create a warm handoff and eliminate the barrier to gaps between appointments to ensure participants have continuity of mental health treatment.
- **Afghanistan War Commission Act of 2021** (Sec. 1094). This act establishes a commission charged with investigating all aspects of United States' activities in Afghanistan from June 1, 2001, through August 30, 2021. Points of emphasis will include but not be limited to United States policy objectives, efficacy of efforts, intelligence activities, and circumstances leading to the downfall of the Afghanistan National Defense Security Forces. The commission's final report will be released to the public.
- **Basic Needs Allowance for Members on Active Service in the Armed Forces** (Sec. 601). Food insecurity among military families is a critical issue impacting an estimated 160,000 troops. The newly created Basic Needs Allowance will bring relief to many active duty families by helping to ensure yearly gross household income is equivalent to 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as set by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Study on Employment of Military Spouses** (Sec. 567). Gainful employment for military spouses can be challenging for a variety of reasons including frequent relocations, licensure challenges, and child care access. This study directs a thorough evaluation of barriers leading to spouse unemployment and underemployment, as well as the identification of policy solutions.
- **Equal Incentive Pay for Members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces** (Sec. 602). Recent wars and contingencies have highlighted disparities between the entitlements and benefits received by members of the active and reserve components. This policy change ensures incentive pay parity between members of the National Guard and Reserve, and those on active duty.



Vote YES on Honoring Our PACT Act

Background

The *Honoring our PACT Act* is a comprehensive solution to provide access to VA health care and benefits to toxic-exposed veterans. This historic legislation would help millions of veterans by establishing a permanent presumptive framework to address any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future. It would provide VA health care access for all veterans exposed to hazards, create a concession of exposure for airborne toxins, and establish a list of presumptive conditions associated with burn pits and other exposures. This legislation would help Post-9/11 veterans, K2 veterans, Atomic veterans, and Vietnam veterans, including those who served in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. We urge the House to pass the *Honoring our PACT Act* as soon as it is brought to the floor.

Take Action

Contact your representative and tell them to vote **YES** as soon as the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the House floor. Toxic-exposed veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for health care and benefits. We must act now!

FUNERAL TEAM FUNDRAISER

To raise funds for new table and bar stools

SOUL FOOD DINNER

BUFFET STYLE \$15.00

APRIL 9TH, 5:00PM

MENU

Fried Chicken, Ribs, collared greens, black-eyed peas, mac & cheese, Caesar salad, cornbread, desert.

Tickets on sale March 1st

