



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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Commander:

SERVICE We all know what it means to serve. Whether you were drafted or volunteered, our time in the military was time we spent serving our nation, our branch of service, our command, and fellow shipmates, soldiers and airman, sometimes that meant serving our community or other countries to protect and assist their populations.

SERVICE does not end when we separate from our military branch. Many of the volunteer organizations in our communities are staffed with former military, it's what we do. Our American Legion has many charities and volunteer services that we provide to our communities and our fellow veterans that the rest of society overlooks or doesn't understand. SERVICE is why we continue to work with and for our fellow veterans and their families.

At Post 154 we know the meaning of SERVICE. The phrase "veterans serving veterans" took on an even more literal meaning January 25 at our post in Rathdrum. Our Chaplain Paula Atwood and her husband Dale have been working diligently on a special project for about a year. It is a battlefield cross with its own storage compartment/carrying case and a beautiful plaque. It is called the "The Last Roll Call" it was presented with such true dedication and honor that it made me and others very proud to belong to Post 154 but also know these two wonderful people. Thank you to everyone that made it possible.

Remember to think about serving as an officer at this wonderful post. Have a great February.

God Bless you and our Country - Dee Sasse, Commander

2nd Vice-Commander:

For those who missed the January member meeting, I want to make sure that when you come to your next Legion meeting, you take some time to admire the wonderful Veteran Memorial that Paula and Dale Atwood have made to honor our fallen Veterans.

Using a donated helmet from the Vietnam era, some donated combat boots from Desert Storm and a non-working assault rifle we secured on loan from the very generous and cooperative

Falls Police Department, the dynamic duo of Atwood and Atwood created a beautiful stand that not only displays these items, but also serves as storage for the items when the Memorial is not being used. There is a plaque on the stand that describes the purpose of the Memorial entitled "The Last Roll Call".

This will be used by our Honor Guard to honor fallen Veterans at funerals and memorial services, and proudly displayed at Veteran events. It is a beautiful and meaningful piece of art and a fitting memorial to our comrades in arms who have fallen. Thank you, Paula, and Dale!

- Len Crosby – 2nd Vice-Commander

Finance Officer:

As we enter the new year of 2017, we remain on stable financial ground, but we need to continue to support the Post's fundraising activities. Our main fundraiser is the sale of "Forget Me Not" Poppies to honor Memorial Day. Memorial Day is May 29th and we typically do our selling the two weeks before the actual day. I would ask each of you to block out some time in the two weekends prior to Memorial Day (May 19 – 21 and May 26 – 28) on your personal calendar and plan on helping our Post in this event. This year we will again ask Stein's and Super One to provide us with their hospitality, but we will also expand our efforts to at least two other stores. We have found that Grocery Stores work well, but I may see if we can reserve a spot at the Post Falls Wal-Mart this year.

Many hands make light work (my Mother used to always say that when assigning household chores in my youth), so remember Mom's advice, and slot in some time for this fundraiser. It helps our Post, it helps get our name out in the Community, and it helps us as Legion members better connect with those who support our Veterans and their families. Thank you. - Len Crosby – Finance Officer

Legislative Chairman:

On the national scene, we are watching a dramatic change in direction taking place with our new President and his administration. This will dramatically impact and hopefully improve many issues that impact our Military and our Veterans.

We hope that new leadership at the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration and the new President's promises to reduce regulatory restrictions will help bring new and better programs for those currently serving in our Armed Forces and for those Veterans who secure their health care through VA. We continue to have wonderful support for our Military and Veteran issues from our Congressional representatives, especially Senator Crapo and Senator Risch.

There will be lots of changes in healthcare and related programs that we need to review and which we hope will be changes for the better. If you have any specific issues you want us to address as a Post, please bring them to my attention.

On a lighter note, our State Legislature is in session. We don't anticipate any State legislation impacting Veterans, but continue to enjoy strong support from our local legislators, especially Senator Nonini, Senator Mary Souza, Rep. Luke Malek and Rep. Don Cheatham. When they hold Town Halls during the session, visit with them and remind them that we continue to need their support for our efforts to secure a Veterans Home in Post Falls. Thank them for all they do, but keep your hand on your wallet!

Len Crosby, Legislative Officer

Chaplain's Pew:

I found a short, anonymous poem that I felt expressed thoughts I could not only include in my husband's Valentine, but use to start this month's newsletter. It goes like this:

You are
Sometimes imperfect,
Somewhat impossible.
Still you are
The only man in the world
Who makes me feel
At home in the world.
Although I am
Sometimes imperfect,
Somewhat impossible.

Hmmmm....food for thought. And, since I'm writing this article to you, I've had to take a good look in the mirror....and then I've looked around at home, community, state, and country. Yes, I see I am just as imperfect, just as impossible as all the problems I see.

OK, so now that I have looked around me, I UNDERSTAND that I am not only part of the current problem and but truly part of any future solutions. And have ended up ASKING myself: what does all this mean and do I have anything to offer?

It means to USE your mind and your hands and your means to effect some change in your home, your community, your state, your country and by extension...your local American Legion Post. THINK of all creative things that you can suggest and support; find the things that you can assist to help your Post reach a goal.

Come to the next meeting. BRING all your ideas, talents, gifts and suggestions. SHARE, not only in the struggle, but also in our success story. We are in this together...although we are sometimes imperfect, somewhat impossible.

Enough of my wool-gathering for now...your Chaplain stands prepared to not only send cards and visit in times of need, but share personal thoughts of encouragement...possible words of wisdom.... provided each and every month with a smile. Be sure to call at any time.

Waiting in the pews for your thoughts or news. - Paula Atwood, Chaplain

A Healthier You:

Will High Blood Pressure Protect Older Brains from Dementia?

When a dog bites a man it doesn't make news. When a man bites a dog it makes headlines. They have a name for this kind of anomaly: Unsurprisingly, it is a "man-bites-dog" story. The following health study fits that category because it defies conventional wisdom about dementia. Hypertension and Alzheimer's Disease: High blood pressure is [...] [> Read Article](#)

Service Officer:

Here's what's new in the world of Washington and your VA leaders:

News Releases

NEW! [VA researcher working to improve HIV care for rural Veterans](#) - Dr. Michael Ohl of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Iowa City VA Health Care System is creating a model titled Telehealth Collaborative Care to improve the quality of care for Veterans who live far from specialty clinics. Telehealth Collaborative Care uses videoconferencing to connect rural Veterans with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) with VA specialists. (1/24/17)

NEW! [VA to Provide Fertility Counseling and Treatment for Certain Veterans and Spouses](#) - WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it is amending its regulation regarding fertility counseling and treatment available to eligible Veterans and spouses. VA currently provides certain infertility services other than in vitro fertilization (IVF) services to Veterans as part of the medical benefits package. This interim final rule authorizes IVF for a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. It also states that VA may provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technologies (ART), including IVF, to a spouse of a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. (1/19/17)

NEW! [VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (1/13/17) - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Mark Your Calendar:

February 2nd – Ground Hog's Day

February 5th – Four Chaplain's Sunday

February 9th – Executive Committee Meeting 6PM Lions Club

February 14th – Valentine's Day. Don't forget your loved one!

February 20th – Presidents' Day

February 22nd – General Membership Meeting 6PM – Lions Club Rathdrum

February 24th – Start of Operation Desert Storm (1991)

February 28th – End of Operation Desert Storm (1991)

March 1st – Ash Wednesday

Editor's Note: the following is the presentation made at the January meeting by Paula Atwood. It is self-explanatory.



Presentation....Jan 2017...American Legion Post 154

The time from 2015 to present...spent forming our new Post...it's been what? Would you say...already two years or only two years? It's our own 'glass half full/half empty' question.

Each one of us, take a good look back at what has been accomplished in our two years and then think of what is to come, what is hoped for and of course, what is truly feasible. Thoughts of what our Post has been in our short past, is as varied today as there are people sitting here this evening, good points and the flip side, too.

But one thing for sure, we are not a Post that has been sitting around and waiting for something to happen. We have accomplished so much for our Post and community ...so much to be proud of as American Legion Post 154.

One of the things we envisioned very early on, was the creation of a visual memorial piece that we could take to ceremonies or use during programs that commemorate our fallen brethren. Several items have been donated to make this memorial piece a reality. Yes, it took almost two years to accomplish this project, but now that it is done, I believe it is well worth the wait.

I am very pleased to bring to you this evening the unveiling of our own memorial.... it is entitled...The Last Roll Call.

A special thank you goes out to each and every person who made this display a reality.

Recognition formally goes to:

helmet & boots: donated by Len Crosby, Post 154 2nd Vice Commander

rifle: donated by Sgt. Mark Brantl, Post Falls Police Department (disabled firearm/display only)

wood base/rifle stand: created & donated by B. Dale Atwood

metal plaque & framed information: donated by Paula Atwood, Post 154 Chaplain

There is one item missing....it is a set of identification tags/chain. If you, or someone you know, has a spare set they would like to donate for a permanent contribution to this display, please

contact me. Editor's Note: To see more photos, go [here](#).