

POST 34 NEWS



Glenn M. Sickels Post 34 of Kennewick-Pasco

1029 West Sylvester Street, PO Box 2571, Pasco, WA 99301 ~ (509) 545-1200

Commander's Corner

Greetings and salutations for the last time this year of 2020.

Although we, family & friends, have endured a great deal this year - including COVID19, the revitalization of our post, and working with our state liquor board in getting our endorsement back - we can look forward to seeing a better year in 2021.

With the new shutdown of the state due to COVID 19, there will be no December EBoard or general meetings. Hopefully, however, January will see things open again.

THANK YOU to those that come together with the food and turkeys and made up the 45 boxes of dinners that were given out to those that were in need.

The Honor Guard is in need. I would like to invite any member, including ladies too, that would like to be a part of the Legion's Honor Guard. Please let me or Murrel know. The more the better. There really is a calling for us. There are times that someone cannot make it, so having a list of those that could be called on will allow us to heed that call when asked to honor someone that has passed.

With all that is now behind us in 2020 I pray 🙏 God's blessings over each and every Veteran & our Legion family and the United States of America.

I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with family, friends & good health.

I am looking forward to the coming new Year and hope all of you are, too.

Happy Holidays, and Merry Christmas.

Garth Rettinghouse
AL Post 34 Commander



Post 34 Honor Guard

Imagine if you will your Dad ... or next-door neighbor ... or grandfather ...

For the last 45 years you have heard the stories of how they exemplified themselves while engaging

the enemy to retake a village held by communists. You have seen the battle wounds; you have seen the fear in their eyes and the courage in their actions as they made decisions and followed orders that could have easily resulted in their deaths. Over the years you have seen the pride in their step that they made those decisions because their loved ones at home were WORTH taking those risks for. You have witnessed their battle-buddies testaments of "one-for-all" and "ALL FOR ONE"!

You have been a guest from time to time down at the Legion when old war buddies swap stories of heroism and vow they will never forget each other and the REASONS they served their country.

And just last month you heard about a veteran across the nation, at Arlington, being laid to rest. You heard all about the 3 volleys of rifle fire, the Soldiers poem, the flag folding and presentation that made the knees of the presenter falter as he knelt to express his Nation's sorrow for its grieving widow ... and the prayer given by the Chaplain ... and then came the coup de gras, the icing on the cake - the eerily haunting music by the Bugler playing TAPS - the pride welling up in not only your eyes but the eyes of all in attendance. As the last shots ring out and the bugle blows its last note, not a dry eye in the batch of them. Then the 3 shiny brass shells are ALSO presented to the widow in their satchet bag and personalized memento card, and the widow LOSES it to tears but her spirit overcomes to maintain herself as her husband, her Hero, would want and expect her to do - just BECAUSE that's how we do it here in America. Everybody present is caught up in the shock and awe of this moment they have looked forward to for a very long time - and they HAVE NOT been disappointed. That was the show they came to see. That was the ritual they came expecting. That was the final chapter in their life and of our fellow Brother in Arms, his fellow Brothers' AND Sisters' in Arms final opportunity to say goodbye and DO what they TALKED about doing so MANY times during

the years. The LAST chance. Six feet would now ALWAYS separate them from him for life eternal, BECAUSE you've heard all the stories and you've seen all the love. Clearly you remember. Don't you?

Now imagine your loved one has finally passed, and the day of the funeral arrives. You know all too well what to expect and you have steeled your nerves to be able to handle what you KNOW is soon coming. The hearse arrives and the coffin is brought to the apparatus by 6 friends ... you recognize each one. But no American flag. "It is coming", you tell yourself. Soon the minister gives the prayer. Then the widow stands tall and courageous as she kneels to kiss the casket of her fallen hero for the last time. You and your fellow attendees file past and lay your rose on the exposed casket - and maybe a small handful of dirt - and then one final glance back as you exit the cemetery, in utter silence.

Your hero slighted? Your hero shunned? Your nation turning its back on one of the many that sacrificed to keep its citizens free?

"Disappointment" barely scratches the surface of your emotions. And then ... and then ... you find out your local area HAS an Honor Guard; they just don't have enough local vets that make 'seeing their fellow vet into the after-life' a PRIORITY. There are too many distractions that are MORE important MORE times than one can count. TV is more important than that final "goodbye" to your Brother ... or to your Sister.

A bike ride is more important ... golf is more important ... the Big Game is more important ... sleeping late is more important ... working on that fence with your neighbor while you remember "tense" times from bygone war days is more important ... the grandkids coming over to hear YOUR war stories is more important.

Red, white, and blue bleeds thru ALL our veins....maybe it is time we ALL took a moment to remember that it is time to stop being a TALKer and begin being a DOer.

Please volunteer to help on the Honor Guard. You may call or text me at 509-627-9038. Thank you!

Murrel Petry
AL Post 34 Honor Guard Captain



American Legion Riders News

Happy Holidays to all! This is a relatively slow month. There will be no general membership meeting for December. However, we will be having our annual ALR Christmas party on Dec 12th from 3pm - 7pm. Please bring a potluck dish to share along with a \$25 white elephant gift if you choose to participate.

Your 2021 EBoard members are as follows:

- Director - Jeff Madsen
- Assistant Director - John Wilson
- Secretary - Tammy Madsen
- Treasurer - Frank Akerley
- Sergeant at Arms - Vacant
- Road Captain - Chuck Cutrell

Thank you to everyone who accepted the nomination once again for 2021. We currently have an open spot for Sergeant at Arms. If you think you may be interested in holding this position, please contact me. Please take the year to observe and ask questions if you think you may be interested in an Executive board position for 2022. It's time for some new members to step up and lead in the future.

Thank you for another fun year on the road! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jeff "Mad Dog" Madsen
ALR Chapter 34 Director



Post 34 American Legion Officers 2020 - 2021

Commander..... Garth Rettinghouse
Adjutant (Vacant)
1st Vice Commander Bob Smith
2nd Vice Commander (Vacant)
Finance Officer Frank Akerley
Service Officer (Vacant)
Chaplain Murrel Petry
Sergeant at Arms..... Luz Medrano
Historian (Vacant)
Judge Advocate..... (Vacant)
Honor Guard Captain..... Murrel Petry
Junior Past Commander (Vacant)
1st Year Committeeman Bob Wiggins
2nd Year Committeeman Dave Cadman
3rd Year Committeeman..... Dwayne Goche

Squadron 34 S.A.L. Officers 2020 - 2021

Commander..... Kurt Bautch
1st Vice Commander Doug Schmunk
2nd Vice Commander Dick McIntyre
Adjutant Kurt Bautch
Finance Officer Kurt Bautch
Sergeant at Arms..... (Vacant)
Chaplain Jim Reed (Dual member)
Legion Advisers Bob Wiggins (Dual member)
Bruce McKee

Chapter 34 AL Riders Officers 2021

Director Jeff "Mad Dog" Madsen
Assistant Director..... John "Jake Brake" Wilson
Secretary Tammy "Gingersnap" Madsen
Treasurer Frank Akerley
Sergeant at Arms..... (Vacant)
Road Captain..... Chuck "Woodchuck" Cutrell
Quartermaster..... Bob "Caveman" Smith
Chaplain..... Garth "Bebop" Rettinghouse

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Seabee Veterans of America
Island x-7, mid-Columbia

Any Current or Former
Seabees are invited to join us
the First Tuesday of the Month
Time: 6 p.m.
Where: American Legion Post
34

**Thanks to all who served
and are still serving
in the U.S. Armed Services.**

Jack and Shirley Frare

