June 2007

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AMVETS POST #1111

ANNUAL PICNIC
June 9, 2007

Pioneer Park, Garden Center
12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
Bring your favorite “dish”
BBQ Chicken & Beverages
Supplied by the post

There will be no regular June post meeting

Flag Day - June 14th - 9:00am-3:00pm, AMVETS will be at 1st & Main Streets in the Land Title Plaza to collect worn out flags for proper disposal. Flags and residential flag poles will be on display—For Sale—Proceeds from sales to support AMVETS activities.

MOTO-BUG

Walt Blue, 64, cruises down Ninth Street on his motorcycle trike made from the combination of a 1973 Honda motorcycle and a 1974 Volkswagen Super Beetle. After three years in the making, with help from Volkswagen expert and former Walla Walla resident Jeff Rogers, who masterminded the project, and Richard Roland, who helped put the Bug in the fast, Walt commented that he still had “a few bugs (the pun intended) to work out of the project,” which included a trip to the HAPPA Auto Parts store to get a nut and bolt for a loose left-side mirror. Walt began the project after deciding he had sustained too many injuries from his rodeo days of bareback, bull, and saddle-tronic riding to be competent on a motorcycle, so he opted for the three-wheel construction for safety considerations.

Blue on his yellow Honvagen

This picture of our Walt Blue was on the front page of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin. We could do no less. Walt, a Vietnam Veteran, is at the Seattle VA Hospital this week getting some eye surgery done. We wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return to the streets of Walla Walla.
Post Commander’s Page

Thanks to all of the Post members for placing the care of the Post in my stead. I will try my best to move forward in a positive manner, to insure that we continue the goals of this Post. June brings us to a slow time and the annual outing at the park. The Post meeting will continue with a short program from me, along with short reports and limited talking on my part. Please plan to attend the Post meetings, this is your Post and you are the past, present and future of this Post. Thanks again for your support.

Donald Schack, Post Commander

Editor’s note: Don had two consecutive terms as post commander in the past and is now returning for a third term. We do not believe in term limits.

AMVETS POST #1111
Veteran Support
Community Service Projects
and Program Activities

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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post chartered</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>16 charter members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downtown Flag Pole</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Located at Land Title Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Brick Program</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>VA Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Walla Walla Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Voluntary Service (VAVS)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>VA medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Flag Program</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Main &amp; Alder Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Walla Walla Cemetery</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Located at Fort Walla Walla Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Troop #305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scout Recognition Week</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial Statue</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Located at Wainwright VA Medical center</td>
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</table>
Truly, AMVETS was born in the midst of war, for it was in August 1943, with victory still two years away, that a new organization, later to be known as the American Veterans of World War II, had its beginning. Overseas, the tide of battle was turning. The Allies had swept through North Africa and Sicily. In the Pacific, fighting raged in New Guinea. Thousands of Americans had made the supreme sacrifice. Hundreds of others were being mustered out of uniform with battle wounds and medical discharges. These men who fought in history’s greatest war found it natural to seek each other’s company. They were united by similar experiences in jungles, in the Arctic, in deserts, in mountains, at sea and in the skies. Thus, out of such comradeship, AMVETS came to be.

Formed in Washington, D.C., two independent veterans clubs, one on the campus of George Washington University, the other of veterans employed by the government, joined together to sponsor a servicemen’s party. By September 1944, other such veteran’s clubs organized throughout America. In California, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas. On Nov. 11, 1944, a Veterans Day article entitled “12,000,000 in search of a Leader” appeared in COLLIER’S. This story, written by Walter Davenport, introduced the clubs and outlined their three mutual aims: to promote world peace, to preserve the American way of life, and to help the veteran help himself. In December 1944, 18 leaders, representing these nine groups, met in Kansas City, Mo. There, a national organization was formed and on Dec. 9, 1944, the name “American Veterans of World War II” was chosen. The word AMVETS, coined by newspaper headline writers, soon became the official name. The white clover, a flower that thrives in freedom throughout the world, and is symbolic of the struggle during World War II, became the adopted flower of AMVETS.

In October 1945, two months after the end of World War II, the first national convention was convened in Chicago. In 1946, AMVETS petitioned Congress for a federal charter. AMVETS, having displayed dignity and a sound approach to national problems, won the deep respect of Congress and on July 23, 1947, President Harry S Truman signed the AMVETS charter. The words of the Senate Judiciary Committee echoed throughout the land, “The veterans of World War II are entitled to their own organization, and AMVETS, being organized along sound lines and for worthy purposes . . . having demonstrated its strength and stability is entitled to the standing and dignity which a national charter will afford.” President Truman also commented, “Were I a veteran of this war, I would prefer to have a veteran of World War II looking after my affairs, than a veteran of some other war.”

When the war broke out in Korea and again in Vietnam, AMVETS requested Congress to amend the charter so that those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces would be eligible for membership. On Sept. 14, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill redefining the eligibility dates for AMVETS membership, stating “Any person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or any American citizen, as an American citizen, who served in the armed forces of an allied nation of the United States at any time after Sept. 15, 1940, and on or before the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States is eligible for regular membership in AMVETS, provided such service when terminated by discharge or release from active duty be by honorable discharge or separation.” On May 7, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Proclamation 4373, terminating the Vietnam era and announcing the cessation of hostilities. Effective May 8, 1975, the armed forces became a peacetime service.

For nearly 10 years, AMVETS did not accept into membership servicemen and women who served after May 7, 1975. On May 31, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98-304, which amended AMVETS' congressional charter to open membership to those who served honorably and actively after May 7, 1975. AMVETS is now the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization that recognizes the sacrifices of these veterans and service persons by extending membership eligibility to them.

At the 46th and 47th national conventions, the contributions made by the National Guard and Reserve forces were recognized and membership eligibility was extended to include all ready reserves. Membership in AMVETS is now open to any person who has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during and since World War II, including all National Guard and Reserve personnel. At the 49th National Convention in 1993, the eligibility of merchant marines who served this country in time of war was addressed and approved. Merchant marines who are considered veterans and eligible for VA benefits (and have received a DD-214 from either the Navy or the Coast Guard) are eligible for AMVETS membership.
We Salute These Walla Walla American Flag Sponsors for their Support and Patriotism — Please Support our Sponsors

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<th>COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SPONSORS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adkins &amp; Sons Masonry - Land Title of Walla Walla County - Walla Walla Union Bulletin</td>
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<td>Banner Bank - Opp &amp; Seibold General Construction, Inc. - Wal-Mart Stores Inc.</td>
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<th>5 STAR GENERAL SPONSORS</th>
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<th>4 STAR GENERAL WAINWRIGHT SPONSORS</th>
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<th>FLAG WAIVER SPONSORS</th>
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Washington Scholar Recognized in Olympia

Miss Kaori Graybeal, daughter of Past Commander Norm and Minobu Graybeal, was recognized at the State Capitol on April 25th as one of three Scholars from the 16th Legislative District. This honor is bestowed upon three graduating high school seniors from each legislative district. Kaori was nominated by and represented Walla Walla High School. The award is presented by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals.

Graduating seniors who are in the top one percent of the class may be recommended by their high school principal. Nominations are made on the basis of academic accomplishment, leadership and community service. Recipients of the Scholars award receive renewable tuition scholarships to the school or college of the student's choice. Kaori will be attending Washington State University and will major in Bioengineering.

The day's events included a general session in the House Chamber where students listened to a most remarkable account. Senator Paul Shin, Chair of the State Higher Education Committee, recounted his life as a teenager in Korea where he was taken in by an Army Sergeant, adopted and eventually became an American citizen. He progressed through the public school system, received his college degree and became one of our current Senators. It was a moving experience.

The day was capped with a luncheon for Scholars, parents and school representatives. Governor Gregoire gave congratulatory remarks focusing on education while the keynote address was presented by Dr. Elson Floyd, incoming President of Washington State University. Kaori was a little shy but she did get to "make points" with Dr. Floyd before departing for home.

AMVETS Past
Commanders,
Tim Bow
and
Norm Graybeal
Present
Scholar's plague
to
High School
Principal
Darcy Weisner

Weisner places plague about where it will be displayed in the main office foyer.

AMVETS recognizes past, present and future scholars
May 31, 2007

Commander, Officers and Members:

First let me tell you who I am and what this letter is about. I am Amanda Speigle, National Junior AMVETS President and also President of the Post #45 Junior AMVETS in Salem, Ohio. I am also a sophomore at Salem Senior High School, a Junior Varsity Cheerleader, school office attendant, member of the Starfish Buddies, Key Club, Spanish Club and Pep Club.

As the National Junior AMVETS President, it is my privilege to choose a Pet Project for my term in office. After much consideration and my admiration for the members of our armed forces, I have chosen “Sew Much Comfort” as my pet project. My theme is “Comfort Made with Love for Our Heroes.”

For those of you not aware of this organization, “Sew Much Comfort” provides wounded service members with adaptive clothing that allows them more independence, comfort, and dignity as they recuperate. This 501c3 organization is run strictly by volunteers who purchase materials to alter clothing. They then make the needed alterations to purchased clothing such as underwear, t-shirts, shorts and pants to name a few items. You can read further online about this wonderful organization at www.sewmuchcomfort.org to see who supports them and who has benefited from their adaptive clothing.

As the National Junior AMVETS President, I am asking if you would be so generous to make a donation to my project for this worthy cause. It is my goal to raise $10,000 for my project. This goal has been quite a challenge but I am determined to accomplish it. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Donations should be made out to Junior AMVETS and mailed to my attention at 543 E. Perry Street. Salem, OH 44460. As I receive donations, I will be compiling a list of donors so that I can mail a complete list of donors to all who contributed with my sincere gratefulness and appreciation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Speigle, National Junior AMVETS President

From the Minutes of the May 16th Meeting:

Approved to donate $250.00 to the Local VAVS for purchase of outdoor recreation furniture for patients at the Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center.

New post officers were installed for the 2007/2008 years beginning with the May Meeting.

New officers are:

Commander, Don Schack 1st Vice Cmdr, Jim Irwin
2nd Vice Cmdr, Troy Vinyard Finance officer, Arnil Hoffarth
Adjutant, Steve Bird Provost Marshal, Mel Harnett
Judge Advocate, Sandra Daudt
## June 2007

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<td>9 Amvets Picnic</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 Flags Flag Day</td>
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<td>17 Father's Day</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 AMVETS No Meeting in lieu of Picnic</td>
<td>21 1st day of Summer</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>25 6 pm PEC Meeting</td>
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## July 2007

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<td>4 Flags Independence Day</td>
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<td>18 AMVETS Post Meet-</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>23 6 pm PEC Meeting</td>
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<td>27 Korean War ended</td>
<td>28</td>
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AMERICAN VETERANS
A leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America’s Armed Forces, AMVETS provides, not only support for veterans and the active military in procuring their earned entitlements, but also community services that enhance the quality of life for this nation's citizens  www.amvets.org  amvets@amvets.org  1-877-7AMVETS

AMVETS OF WALLA WALLA Post # 1111
Current Membership 100
Annual Members 47 / Life 53
Annual Dues: $25.00 per year / Life Member: $150.00
To be eligible for membership, you must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, anytime after Sept. 15, 1940. Additionally, unless still serving, your discharge must have been under honorable conditions. If you served as an American citizen in the armed forces of an allied nation, under honorable conditions, between Sept. 15, 1940 and May 8, 1975, you are also eligible, as are wartime members of the Merchant Marine. Proof of eligibility can take the form of a DD-214, an honorable discharge certificate or other appropriate document.

WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL MONUMENT
An AMVETS Post #1111 project
Located at the
Jonathan M Wainwright Memorial Veteran Affairs Medical Center
Walla Walla, Washington 460
installed bronze plaques to date
call Jim Irwin at 529-2411 for an order form
A Lasting Tribute to Members of the Armed Services

DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA FLAGS
An AMVETS Post #1111 project
We are now starting our 6th year of providing the downtown with holiday flags. The response by the community to our flag project has been great.
Please support OUR Sponsors
See our list of sponsors on page 4.
Flags will fly on the following upcoming holidays.
Flag Day June 14th
Independence Day July 4th

June Meeting
No Meeting
Picnic on 6/09/2007
Golden West Estates Community room
1425 Jasper St
Walla Walla
Directions:
South off West Rose on Jade St.
past the Driver License Dept.
then right on Jasper to the middle of the block

Return Service Requested
AMVETS Post #1111
Jonathan M Wainwright
PO Box 2535

NATIONAL: www.amvets.org  amvets@amvets.org  1-877-7AMVETS