



Post 379

COMMANDERS CORNER

Comrades, Auxiliary, Family, and Friends,

As the new Commander I would like to express my thanks to Commander Shadrick Kautzman for his dedication, foresight, and patience as his time as the Post Commander during an extremely difficult and uncharted time in our history. It has been difficult to endure these times through our 100-year Anniversary yet be locked down due to a virus. The balance of Life, Family, School, Work, and the VFW is indeed an arduous one. Again, Thank You Shadrick.

As we enter into a new year many make New Year Resolutions. I challenge each of us to evaluate how we can all be better and focused on what really matters in our lives. How do we support each other and the values we all hold dear?

I am humbled at the opportunity to become the newest Post Commander for one of the Nations most esteemed Posts. In this role I will do my best to build strong relationships within our membership, families, and our community. I believe that with just a little effort from all of our current active members that we can make momentous strides in our ongoing duties as Veterans. We all took an Oath at one time in our service to this country. I feel that many times people forget the significance of that enduring Oath and that that Oath does not just pertain to the time spent in uniform. The Oath never perishes. As VFW members our mission is to promote Patriotism and to serve other Veterans and their families. To share the fact that the Cost of Freedom is not Free.

Thankfully we have an incredible Post and membership that allows us to execute that mission. I encourage each of you reading this months Script to please consider attending upcoming events at the Post. Do not only just attend, but in addition bring other Veterans, friends, family members, children, and grandchildren. We have a live band most Friday nights and a Juke box that is sure to contain your favorites on other nights.

For the Post / Club to remain relevant and prosperous, we must have members involved. Involved means to attend dinners and functions. To promote the Post as a banquet venue location. To lead initiatives and projects. If you have an idea and the initiative to lead those projects to propel the Post into the future, I for one am surely interested in your ideas. For an organization to meet its Strategic and Operational Goals, it takes Teamwork and Accountability. Not one person can accomplish these goals on their own. I ask that we all respect people's ideas, initiative and input as we move into the future.

It is not to late to register for the Mid-Winter Conference. If you desire to see current efforts and initiatives within the State and National Level, then I encourage you to attend Jan 14th & 15th at the Yakima Convention Center.

Very Respectfully, Steven L. Saunders, CSM Retired

William Wharton

Post 379

Post Script

Jan-Feb 2022

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas Members.

As the Year 2021 comes to a close, there are many great activities and memories that kept our Auxiliary members busy helping Veterans and their families . We also reached out to the Community.

Our Community Outreach Chair, Susan Lippincott, organized a Cookie Blitz for the local Fire Departments in Yakima and Selah. There were 8 persons baking or buying cookies. A total of 264 cookies were given out in sealable bags. Judy Dawson gave cookies to the Selah Fire Dept. and Susan brought cookies to the Yakima and Union Gap Fire Departments. Another Cookie Blitz may happen in January 2022 for Police Departments.

Annette Buck's friends and family held a Breakfast with Santa at the Post in December.

To Honor our Veterans, our Auxiliary and Post members, as well as Active Military and Veterans put 2000 wreaths on the gravestones at Tahoma Cemetery in December. Diane Hall organized the activity. On Dec. 18 a wreath ceremony was held at the Cemetery.

Our Auxiliary participated with the Post in providing clothes, many books for the library and furniture at the newly constructed Veteran housing and Service Center, Chuck Austin Place. Joy Miller also helped provide cleaning supplies and personal items to Veterans and their families. Members attended the dedication of Chuck Austin Place on November 10th. Two benches funded by the Auxiliary and the Post are placed near the entrance.

On Veterans Day several Auxiliary and Post members rode on our float in the parade in Yakima, Gene Hazen pulled the float with his truck decorated in red, white and blue. Ellena Hazen, Joy Miller, Judy Dawson, Jodi Reilly and Susan Lippincott rode on the float that was decorated in red, white and blue by Joy Miller, Ellena Hazen, Judy Dawson and Gene Hazen.

Our Patriotic and Americanism Chair, Ellena Hazen, organized an awards ceremony at our Post . The local winning students and their parents attended and enjoyed a taco dinner. The Post winners were Natalie Keller, Maja Dahlin and Lizzie Mills. Post 379 winners also won District 17 and will move on to State. We are proud of our student's achievements.

The Dept Mid Winter Conference will be held in Yakima Convention Center Jan 15th and 16th.

A new member, Jodi Reilly, accepted the position of Historian and Media Relations. Jodi is looking forward to setting up our Auxiliary Facebook page and connecting with our Community. Wahoo!!

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Judy Dawson, Auxiliary President.

CLUB MANAGER

To all members and friends I want to say thank you for remembering our staff this year. We work very hard to take care of each of you and appreciate your generosity. So from Laura, Lorri, Pam, Tawnya, Jordan, Danny and myself **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**

Our Christmas potluck was a huge success. Thanks to everyone that participated.

Dates to remember:

1/15-16 Mid Winter Conference

02/26 Old Soldiers Ball

Thursday Night Dinner Recap:

01/06 Lasagna

01/13 Hamburger Steak

01/20 Prime Rib and Potato Soup

01/27 Steak

02/03 Ribs

02/10 Baked Potato Bar

02/17 French Dips

02/24 Steak

Happy New Year

CLUB HOURS

Closed: Monday, Saturday

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,

2:00pm to close

Open Sunday 8:00am to 12:00pm

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.

PIE AUCTION

Thank you to every one that showed up and bid on the pies, Special thanks to our Auctioneer Paul Newman for a FANTASTIC job. Thank you to Ann Henning and Duane Garlock for helping. We made \$ 1534.00 which will be given to the veterans in Walla Walla. Fun was had by all November 18th 2021 at our VFW Post 379. See you all again next year.



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!!!**



You "**will**" show up for the "Old Soldiers Ball" Feb 26th. Fun starts at 5:00pm. Dine and dance to Rock Garden. Wear what ever still fits of your uniform. For most will be your hat. Tickets on sale at the club.



Here is our winners for Post 379 & Auxiliary Youth Essay programs. VOD winner Natalie Keller and our Patriots Pen winner Lizzie Mills also won at the District level. On to State. The youth Essay winners from grade school had great essays and made us understand that we have some very smart children out there. We are very proud of all that entered these great youth programs.

Club wants your input!

The Post House & Club Committee needs your input on menu items and changes you would like to see at "your" Club. Please email us at vfw379@gmail.com or drop off a note to the bar. We will have a file at the bar for your suggestions.

SERVICE OFFICE

The Yakima Service Office continues to be one of the busiest offices in the state. Nadine continues to assist veterans and their families with disability, pension, burial and survivor benefits claims. She is also conducting appeal hearings via videoconference for veterans that do not want to travel to the regional office in Seattle. Covid-19 forced the VA to move to more videoconferences to keep the appeals process moving forward since the in-person hearings were suspended in April 2021.

In November Nadine was invited to a private “Fireside Chat” with General James Mattis. The small gathering was held in Richland and was hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse. General Mattis was a warm, gentle, man who offered his opinion on a number of current issues, both here in the U.S. and around the world. His kind nature should not be taken as any sort of weakness, as it was evident that he never makes a decision on a whim, but his quick mind would make an instant decision if necessary. He was gracious enough to meet each person in attendance and stand for multiple photos and autographs.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) continues to improve their claims processing. In 2021 they added more than 1,500 claims processors across the nation. The Seattle service center is now the third largest in the U.S. They have also added a third independent contractor to evaluate disability claims. LHI joins QTC and VES in providing examinations to determine the level of disability.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) broke ground in October on their new Yakima Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The new clinic, slated for completion in September 2022, is located in Union Gap, next to the Holiday Inn Express. Doubling its size – to more than 16,000 square feet – the new clinic will be state-of-the art and provide more in-house services than the current clinic does.

VETERANS SERVICES INFORMATION SEMINAR

The Yakima VFW Service Office, along with other service providers, will be hosting an “Information Seminar” on Tuesday, January 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.

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



By request of our Members we will be open on Tuesdays and having taco specials and \$2 pounders of Bud and Bud light. You have spoken and we have listened. Hope to see you here.



One of the very best teams in the State. We give any Veteran their Military Honors. We provided Honors to 120 Veterans in 2021. There is not a more rewarding Job in the VFW.



Honor Wall

The wall is growing and we would like to see it get bigger still. Put yourself or your loved one on the wall to be remembered forever in their place of Honor. Applications are available at the Post or can be emailed at your request. Cost is \$100 per plaque and the profit goes to support maintenance on the Post Home.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

William Wharton Post 379

118 S. 5th Ave

Yakima, WA 98902

509-457-5400

vfw379@gmail.com

Vfw379.org



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.

Dept Mid-Winter Convention will be in Yakima on Jan 14th and 15th. The Post will be open for lunch on Friday Jan 14th and we will be having a prime Rib Buffet on Friday night. The club will be open for business on Saturday Jan 15th at 11:00am for our Veteran brothers and sisters from here and out of town. VOD banquet will be at the Convention Center on Saturday night. Post 379's winners in VOD and Patriots Pen are in the running for State honors.

OUR GREAT SPONSORS

Field Group

Rays Retail Meats

Brumback Law Group

Keith & Keith Funeral Home

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Army for their Bowl Game Victory.

To the Navy for beating Army

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.

POST 379 OFFICERS

Commander Steven Saunders

Sr-vice Roger Althoff

Jr-vice vacant

Quartermaster Del Gilliland

Adjutant Del Gilliland

H & C Chairman Don Welshimer

Chaplain Rick Beck

Aux Officers

President Judy Dawson

Sr-vice Susan Lippincott

Jr-vice Trina Garlock

Treasurer Annette Buck

Secretary Brandy Garner

Chaplain Sami Church



Our Voice Of Democracy winner Natalie Keller receiving her 1st place award at the District 17 meeting with Post 379 Auxiliary President Judy Dawson, Chairman Ellena Hazen, District Commander Trina Parrish.



Our Patriots Pen winner Lizzie Mills receiving her 1st place award at the District 17 meeting with VFW Auxiliary President Judy Dawson. Chairman Ellena Hazen, and District Commander Trina Parrish.

The dedication of Chuck Austin Place on November 10th. Chuck would have been very proud to see the completion of this project. He will live in our hearts forever. He really would loved the fact we did this on the Marine Corp birthday.





Hello my fellow comrades,

It is with a heavy heart that I must officially step down as commander of Post 379. I am having to make this decision based on medical issues as well as work commitments that will not allow me to fully fulfill my commander duties at this time. The Sr. Vice will assume duties as the commander at this time. I know that the club will continue to grow and prosper as long as our membership continues to welcome change down at the post. I will leave you with this thought.

For far too long has the post struggled due to individuals not wanting change and only wanting it to stay in what I would call the comfort zone for people. But for our post to survive and to draw in new younger members our current voting membership has to change for the better and quit undermining the leadership who only has the best interest of the post in mind. I also encourage our membership that frequents the post and as we would call our normals to not talk about their comrades behind their backs and instead of there is a concern to talk to that individual as a sign of respect. So if people are willing to change and respect each other I know in my heart the post can do great things going forward.

Sincerely,

Shadrick M Kautzman

Outgoing VFW Post 379 Commander

P.S I will still be around and will always continue to push people (our membership) past their comfort zones. I shall see you around my brothers and sisters.

At the Post Meeting on December 8th Steven Saunders officially accepted the position of Commander of Post 379. We will be holding an election for Post Jr-vice Commander at the next meeting on January 12th.





VFW Post 379 Officers and Staff want to wish you a Happy and Safe New Year.

May 2022 be a good year for all our members and Veterans where ever they are.