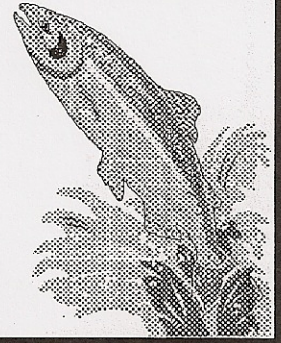




THE SALMON CREEK POST



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June 2012 *Salmon Creek American Legion Post176 * Vancouver Wa.. * VOL24 No 131

Commander:
Roxeanne Boose 695-5935

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Greg Whitson 695-5456

2nd Vice Cmdr:
Gary Zilm 576-0774

Adjutant:
Mike Gibson 694-8005

Finance Officer:
Phil Yasson 574-1152

Chaplin:
Jerry Keen 907-9473

Historian:
Edith Levulet 487-6849

Sgt. At Arms:

Jr. Past Commander:

Service Officer:
Jan Wojciechowski 573-3230

Board Members
John Treosti 574-5746

Jonathan Frederick 576-9078

COMMANDERS NOTES:

Legionnaires,

First of all I'd like to thank Sally Garcia who represented Post 176 and presented the JROTC awards on May 17th at Prairie High School. It was Everett Cook who represented Post 176 and presented the JROTC awards at the Battleground High School on May 18th. The awards we present, for those who do not know, are the American Legion Military Excellence Award and the American Legion Scholastic Award. The Military Excellence Award is the highest honor that a JROTC member can receive. We here at Post 176 have the honor of presenting these two awards at these two schools every year. It is a wonderful experience to see the excitement and pride these young individuals resonate with and for us to be able to offer them encouragement and congratulations is wonderful. Every May we have this opportunity so mark your calendars and be a part of it next year.

We will be holding the Boy's State Orientation at Post 176 on Sunday, June 3rd at noon. Come visit with the families, encourage the candidates and have a burger. Our own "Master of the Grill" -- Mike Gibson [also known as Post Adjutant] will be at the new Post BBQ grill cooking up the best burgers.

On the 20th of May there was the yearly "Massing of the Colors" event held at the VA. This is an awesome ceremony! All military organizations are invited to participate with their colors - it's quite a sight to see. Sally Garcia and I participated in the posting of our colors. It was unfortunately, attended this year by only a fraction of the regular attendees. Don't know what was happening that so many missed this event, but I hope next year it'll have the attendance and participation it warrants and deserves. Toni of VA Volunteer Services provided an awesome dessert assortment after the service.

The big event of the month was our Memorial Day Breakfast and Service.

POST HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

CLOSED - FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY

A BIG Thank you goes out to all the volunteers who come together to put this tasty breakfast and respectful service on, including the folks that come down from the Castle Rock Post and the Honorable Jamie Herrera - Beutler sharing her own thoughts.

Have you been over to the Veteran Assistance Center on Columbia? It's a great place to hang out, get information, file a claim or get a cup of coffee. Did you know the center is run completely by volunteers? If you like to talk with veterans and appreciate an office setting, they could use you! If you have a couple of hours a week to spare, they could use your help. Give them a call and see how easy it is to get involved - 360-693-7030. The address is 1305 Columbia in Vancouver.

We are still looking for someone who is talented with computers to take over our website. We have a volunteer, Brian Hidebrand who is a leader with the Young Marines, is going to get the site up to date and make it easy to maintain, but we need someone who is willing to commit to doing it on a regular basis. Please let me, Phil, Gary or Morris know if that is something you can do.

My personal thanks, respect and admiration go out to all of you who continue to serve in whichever way and in whatever capacity you are capable of - THANK YOU!

Roxeanne Boose' Post 176 Commander

Calendar of Events

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center at 1305 Columbia is open to all Veterans daily throughout the week from 9am to 4:30pm.

June 3 - American Legion Evergreen Boys State Orientation for the 5th District at Post 176 beginning at noon -- everyone is invited.

June 9 - Combat Veterans International (CVI) is an organization of combat veterans who ride motorcycles. They meet at Post 176 at 9am. Open to anyone who rides, come join us.

June 11 - Disabled American Veterans meeting is held at 7pm, for meeting info please call 360-713-6004.

June 14 - Flag Day.

June 14 - American Legion Post 176 general membership meeting with flag retirement ceremony, swear in new officers and potluck at 6pm.

June 17 - Father's Day.

June 21 - American Legion Post 176 e-board meeting at 6pm.

June 23 - American Legion Cruisers car show at Post 176, starts at 9am.

July 4 - Independence Day at Fort Vancouver.

Information of Service from Gareth A. Wilson

I am a member of American Legion Post 176.

I am a Weekend Warrior that never took Basic Training which in 1948 wasn't necessary. You just went to drills.

In 1948 I joined the 116th Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron as a Bow Gunner on a tank in Caldwell Idaho. In 1949 I transferred to B Battery, 148th Field Artillery Battalion in Moscow Idaho. In 1951 I was called to active duty in Korea. I made Sergeant First Class (E6), enlisted grades only went to E-7 then. I was sent to Camp Carson Colorado and was the Batteries Instructor for the 155mm Howitzer. I was the only senior NCO that had bothered to read the manual on the care of 155's. The gun crews I trained were as good as any that I came across later in the Army.

I was sent to Korea in March 1952 to C Battery 96th Field Artillery Battalion and put in charge of the first Howitzer section. The Battalion, thanks to the Truce Talks, hadn't March Ordered the pieces for months and we only did so once, for training, during the short time I was there. The rest of the time we spent shooting the Howitzers. We were assigned to support the Turkish Brigade. The Turks took very good care of us and I owe them BIG TIME!

My enlistment expired the summer of 1952 and I was sent home. I had no desire to re-enlist and stay in Korea. However I did enlist in the Air Force in 1954 and ultimately retired from it in 1972.

Gareth A. Wilson.

Thank you for the article and Thank You for putting yourself on the line to protect all of us. To those of us who know what you did, and what you had to go through, you are truly a HERO. Because of your sacrifice we are a free country today and we salute you. Again, THANK YOU!

POST MANAGER

Memorial Day: It is well we remember that Memorial Day originated at the close of the Civil War, and therefore we should give due recognition to the veterans of earlier wars. Memorial is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who have gone before us. We honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country, and of those others who have dropped their burdens by the wayside of life and are gone to their eternal rest. Let us renew our pledge of loyalty to our country and its flag. Let us resolve by word and deed to emphasize the privilege and duty of patriotism.

June 14th is Flag Day and Post 176 membership meeting with a FLAG CEREMONY; Retirement of Old Colors. The Post has received a number of flags to be retired, not disposed of, which have become unserviceable. The lounge space is going through remodeling and is becoming the Post Administration office. Stop by and check it out after June 10th. Our fundraising activity is going very well at this time (BINGO and PULL TAB). Everyone is having a good time with this entertainment and fun activity. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the Kitchen Staff will fix you breakfast, lunch or dinner and our prices are very good.

Morris Giesler Post 176 Manager

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to thank all of you people who have taken the time and made the effort to send in your 2012 dues. It makes a big difference in helping support the people who represent us in getting the programs through Congress that gets us the benefits we need, and have earned. With your efforts we have reached 82% of our membership goal which is just 78 people from reaching 100%. It is still not too late to send in your dues for 2012. The new year begins in June after the convention, and then your dues will be in arrears by two years, 2011 & 2012 and at that point you will go into a dropped from roster file and lose all benefits and years in the Legion. It would be more costly than the \$40.00 per year dues to keep everything active and in force.

I would hope we can keep all of our members as part of our Legion because you are the people who earned and made us what we are today. Without the support of all of you helping, the American Legion will eventually go the way of many businesses and no longer be around. It would be a tragic loss for all Veterans to lose everything you have fought for, and many have died for, and future generations to never have the organization to help them with war related injuries and sicknesses.

Please send in your dues and help keep us rolling.
Thank you and God Bless America.

Gary Zilm Post 176 Membership

BINGO HOURS 11:00AM - 6:30PM
MON - TUE - WED
PULL TAB AND KITCHEN AVAILABLE

Please send me anything you would like to announce in the newsletter to our membership. Send it to me at ; garyzilm@comcast.net Anniversaries, Births, Deaths, Weddings, Graduations, Change of address and e-mail address are all acceptable and whatever else you have that is important to you. If it is important to you, then it is important to us also.

I can also use your military history, dates, places and duties performed. We have many people who may have also served in the same places as you did, and there could be some good memories between you there, so send in your information so we can try to hook people up with each other.