# The Veteran’s Voice

**NOVEMBER 2026**

**VFW Post 7824 | Honoring Veterans, Supporting Families**

**Your monthly Post briefing**

### Hello, Comrade!

November brings opportunities to honor Veterans, volunteer at the Buddy Poppy table, and support holiday food baskets. Read the Auxiliary’s update, note the appreciation lunch RSVP deadline, and stay connected with Post activities and Veteran assistance.

**Around the Post • October Highlights**

## Two Celebrations, One Great Post Community

**Our Navy Birthday celebration and Halloween party were both big successes!** These gatherings gave us opportunities to honor service, enjoy one another’s company, and celebrate the community that makes Post 7824 special.

The Navy Birthday celebration honored our Navy Veterans and their proud tradition of service. Our Halloween party brought another successful celebration to the Post as October came to a close.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff, volunteers, and organizers who helped make both events a success. Your participation and support keep our Post a welcoming place for Veterans, families, and friends.

**Stay connected between newsletters**

## Make vfw7824.org Your First Stop

Your connection to Post 7824 continues throughout the month. Bookmark vfw7824.org and check back for Post news, calendar information, ways to get involved, and Veteran resources.

**Planning a visit?** Check the Post calendar and Canteen information before heading out. **Looking for help?** Use the website to find Veteran assistance and Post contact information. **Ready to serve?** Explore our programs and ask how you can volunteer.

Help us reach more Veterans: share vfw7824.org with a friend, family member, neighbor, or local business. A shared link can connect someone with the support or community they have been looking for.

Visit vfw7824.org

Leadership message

# A Message from the Commander

Dear Comrades,

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we restructure the kitchen and canteen staff. As a reminder, please refrain from making negative written or verbal comments toward our staff and volunteers.

Please take note of the following upcoming events and announcements:

- **Town Hall Meeting:** December 4 at 1000.
- **Placing Cemetery Flags:** November 7 at 1500 at Vancouver Cemetery, across from the Vancouver VA Medical Center on Fourth Plain Boulevard. All help is welcome.
- **Retrieving Cemetery Flags:** November 14 at 1200.
- **Poppy Distribution Event:** November 6, from 1100 to 1400, at Vancouver Mall, on the lower level adjacent to the Macy's entrance. Volunteers, please arrive around 1030 for setup.
- **Post-Vietnam War Veterans Luncheon:** November 14, from 1200 to 1330. The meal is free for Veterans and $12.00 for guests. Please RSVP by November 7.

For further information and updates, please check our Facebook page and the Post newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Commander Larry Ross**

Reflection, encouragement, and support

# The Chaplain’s Corner

## Homelessness: There Has to Be a Better Way

By Chaplain Bob Meyers

I was up early this morning, unable to sleep. A cold-or something like it-has kept me somewhat immobile. While looking through Facebook, I came across photos of a campsite. No one was there, and garbage was scattered everywhere!

Rather than simply being angry, which was my first reaction, I found the scene disturbing. In my travels around the greater Portland area, I have seen similar conditions at many homeless campsites. There has to be a better way.

I thought about the county personnel who put on HAZMAT gear to tackle what is left behind. It occurred to me that anger, rather than a mental health condition, might explain some of the behavior. I cannot know what is in another person’s mind, but I wonder whether some feel that no one cares about them or the mess they make. From that perspective, why would they clean up after themselves?

I worry that the mess left behind matters to some in local politics primarily because of the impression it makes on others in the political arena.

We used to hear more about vagrancy ordinances, and this is the type of behavior I associate with their intended purpose. I wonder whether changes in how these issues are addressed help explain what we see along our roads and sidewalks. In my view, meaningful action needs to involve state leadership.

That is my rant for the day. God bless those of us who care!

Veterans, families, and holiday support

# A Message from the VFW Auxiliary

Our Holiday Bazaar was a great success! Many thanks to Michelle and Robin for contacting vendors and creating space for them inside and outside the Post. Thanks to Jenifer for hosting the bake sale table. We appreciate everyone who made the delicious sweet treats.

Members of the Auxiliary and the Post will host a Buddy Poppy table at Vancouver Mall, in front of Macy's, on **November 6, from 1100 to 1400**. Contact Jan Jablonski if you would like to volunteer.

As you are able, please plan to participate in the **Veterans Day Parade on November 11**. Buddy Poppies and candy will be available for those walking in the parade to hand out.

**VFW members who served after Vietnam-including in Panama, Kuwait, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and other operations-are invited to lunch on November 14, from 1200 to 1330. It is the Auxiliary's way of saying thank you! Lunch is free for these Veterans, and each may bring one guest for $12.00. The menu includes street tacos, rice, beans, and dessert. Please RSVP at the bar by November 7.**

We will be busy preparing food baskets for those who could use a little help during the holiday season. If you know someone who needs food assistance, please contact Cindy Tagliavia, who chairs our Veterans and Family Support program. Text her at (360) 607-1861. You may also email Larry Ross, Post Commander, at lross@vfw7824.org.

We are excited to team up again this year with Gaiser Middle School. The students are sponsoring a food drive, and the items they collect will be used in our food baskets. They do an amazing job of collecting food for Veterans experiencing hunger.

The Auxiliary does not meet in November or December, but that certainly does not mean we are idle. **Our next meeting is January 28, 2027.**

**Martha Causey**
Auxiliary President

At the Post

# Canteen Update

There will be no Canteen update for the foreseeable future. For current information, please see the Canteen page and the VFW Post 7824 Facebook page.

# November Events & Activities

## November 6 - Buddy Poppy Distribution

Vancouver Mall, lower level adjacent to the Macy's entrance, from **1100 to 1400**. Volunteers should arrive around **1030** for setup. Contact Jan Jablonski to volunteer.

## November 7 - Cemetery Flags, Lunch RSVP & VFW Bingo

Help place cemetery flags at **1500** at Vancouver Cemetery, across from the Vancouver VA Medical Center on Fourth Plain Boulevard. All help is welcome. This is also the RSVP deadline for the November 14 luncheon; please sign up at the bar. VFW Bingo at the VA begins at **1800**.

## November 11 - Veterans Day Parade

Participate as you are able. Buddy Poppies and candy will be available for walkers to hand out. Check Post announcements for parade assembly details.

## November 14 - Cemetery Flag Retrieval

Help retrieve cemetery flags at **1200**.

## November 14 - Post-Vietnam War Veterans Luncheon

Hosted by the Auxiliary from **1200 to 1330** for VFW members who served after Vietnam. Free for these Veterans; one guest is $12.00. Street tacos, rice, beans, and dessert. Please RSVP at the bar by November 7.

## November 15 - Cootie Bingo

Join us for Cootie Bingo at the VA at **1300**.

## November 18 - VA Coffee Cart: Date Change

The coffee cart has moved from Veterans Day to **Wednesday, November 18**.

## November 21 - MOCA Meeting: Date Change

The regular Cooties Auxiliary meeting has moved to **Saturday, November 21, at 1100**.

## Looking Ahead - December 4 Town Hall

The Town Hall Meeting begins at **1000**.

## Looking Ahead - December 5 Cootie Christmas Party & VFW Bingo

The annual Cootie Christmas party begins at **1300**, with the VFW joining us. VFW Bingo follows at the VA at **1800**.

Additional November entertainment and dinner details are pending. See the Post calendar for current listings.

# Organization Updates

## AMVETS

We are looking for someone to provide AMVETS updates for the newsletter. If you would like to share AMVETS news, activities, or announcements, please contact Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org.

## AMVETS Auxiliary

The AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, November 5, at 1900**. Please mark your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Debra Patten**
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary President

## Military Order of the Cootie

**The next Cooties meeting will be November 9, 2026, at 1300.**

**Ron Causey**
Seam Squirrel
Van-Orc PT #6

## Cooties Auxiliary - MOC AuxSillyry

MOC AuxSillyry continues to keep them smiling in beds of white.

Grand C of A in Bellingham presented Supreme awards, and Van Orc #6 Pup Tent and AuxSillyry proved that they had done their jobs well this past year. Let's keep it up!

The Veterans enjoyed the Halloween ice cream social, and many thanked us for being there.

**Our regular MOCA meeting has been changed to Saturday, November 21, at 1100.**

## Upcoming VA Events

- **Saturday, November 7 at 1800:** VFW Bingo
- **Sunday, November 15 at 1300:** Cootie Bingo
- **Wednesday, November 18:** Coffee cart. This is a date change from Veterans Day.
- **Saturday, November 21 at 1100:** MOCA meeting. This is also a date change.
- **Saturday, December 5 at 1300:** Annual Cootie Christmas party, with the VFW joining us.
- **Saturday, December 5 at 1800:** VFW Bingo

**Honor, remembrance, and service**

# Honor Guard & Color Guard

Co-Commanders Benny Asanoma and Mike Teague

## Request Ceremonial Support

The team supports eligible funeral honors and community ceremonies, coordinating with the official military detail when applicable. Please provide at least 14 days' notice for community-event requests whenever possible.

## Join the Team

New members are welcome, and training is provided. Volunteers are needed for ceremonies, monthly training, scheduling, communications, and administrative support.

**Contact the Honor Guard:** honorguard@vfw7824.org or (360) 254-0155.

**Supporting our students**

# Youth & Education Update

The October 31, 2026, entry deadline has passed. Thank you to the students, families, educators, and volunteers who supported our youth essay programs.

November program news and recognition details are pending. For questions, contact youth@vfw7824.org.

# November Meeting Information

## AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary - November 5 at 1900

Thursday, November 5. Please mark your calendar; we look forward to seeing you.

## Cooties - November 9 at 1300

The next Cooties meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2026.

## VFW Post 7824 - November 12

The regular second-Thursday meeting date is November 12. **The VFW members' meeting is also available through Microsoft Teams.** Contact Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org for the meeting link and joining details. Confirm the meeting time and any schedule changes through the official Post invitation or calendar.

## Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA) - November 21 at 1100

**Date change:** The regular MOCA meeting will be Saturday, November 21, at 1100.

## VFW Auxiliary - No November or December Meeting

The next Auxiliary meeting is **January 28, 2027**.

## Looking Ahead - December 4 Town Hall at 1000

Please mark your calendar for the Town Hall Meeting.

## Other Organization Meetings

November AMVETS meeting details are pending confirmation. Consult the Post calendar for current information.

## Microsoft Teams for Virtual Meetings

Members who wish to attend the VFW members' meeting through Microsoft Teams should contact Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org for joining details. Allow a few minutes before the meeting to check your audio and camera.

Benefits guidance and immediate support

# Veteran Assistance & Service Officer

VFW Accredited Service Officers provide free assistance to Veterans, service members, families, and survivors. They can help explain VA benefits, prepare and file claims, review evidence, and assist with appeals, pensions, education, rehabilitation, and survivor benefits.

## Connect with a Service Officer

**Service Officer contacts:** Call Emory or David at (360) 695-6414. For Post coordination, email adj@vfw7824.org.

**Protect your privacy:** Do not email Social Security numbers, medical records, claim numbers, or other sensitive personal information. Ask how documents should be submitted securely.

Find VFW Benefits Assistance

## Veterans Crisis Line

**Dial 988, then press 1 | Text 838255**

Free, confidential support is available 24/7 for Veterans and their loved ones. You can also chat online. If there is immediate danger, call 911.

Community partnerships

# Help Us Serve: Explore Sponsorships

Local businesses, organizations, and individuals can help strengthen the work of VFW Post 7824. If you would like to support Veterans, military families, youth programs, or community activities, start a conversation with us about sponsorship opportunities.

Interested in sponsoring a Post event or helping with supplies, meals, services, or outreach? Let us know what you have in mind. You can also ask about supporting the newsletter and website that help keep our community informed.

We will discuss current needs, the scope of your support, and any available recognition before an arrangement is finalized. Members can help by introducing the Post to a business or community partner that shares our commitment to Veterans.

**Let's talk:** Email adj@vfw7824.org or call (360) 254-0155. For newsletter or website sponsorship questions, contact Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org.

Ask About Sponsorships

Put service into action

# Volunteers Needed

A few hours can make a real difference. Members, Auxiliaries, families, and community supporters are encouraged to ask where they can help.

### Honor Guard

Ceremonies, training, scheduling, and communications. Training is provided.

### Canteen

Event setup, meal service, cleanup, and other shifts as needs are announced.

### Service Projects

VA Bingo, poppy distribution, cemetery flag placement, and community projects.

**Ready to help?** Contact the Honor Guard at honorguard@vfw7824.org. For Canteen and service-project opportunities, call (360) 254-0155 or email adj@vfw7824.org.

# Are You Getting the Right Updates?

Help us improve Post communications. Confirm your VFW, Auxiliary, AMVETS, or supporter affiliation and tell us which information matters most to you.

Confirm My Affiliation

**Have something for the newsletter?** Please let Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org know.