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VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®
Vancouver Post 7824
Veterans Helping Veterans



OCTOBER 2026 | SERVICE - COMMUNITY - CAMARADERIE

YOUR MONTHLY POST BRIEFING

Hello, Comrade!

This issue brings together leadership and chaplain updates, our Meet a Vet profile, Honor Guard news, youth essay reminders, Veteran assistance, volunteer opportunities, Post events, and every October meeting in one easy-to-scan email.

Visit Post 7824

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

A Message from the Commander

As September comes to a close, I would like to share an update on our recent events and important post matters.

This past month, our post was involved in several community events:

- Hosted a table at the local Saturday market in downtown Vancouver.
- The Honor Guard participated in the 9/11 memorial at the Vancouver waterfront alongside Post #4872.
- Posted the colors at Washougal High School for POW-MIA recognition.

- Assisted at the Hewlett-Packard facility's annual readiness event, where three of our veterans hosted an informational table.
- Supported the Veteran Stand Down at the Reserve Center.
- Assisted with Oktoberfest at the Vancouver Community Living Center (CLC), as well as VFW and Cooties bingo.
- Had the honor of escorting a Gold Star mother and daughter to the Seattle Garden of Remembrance.

Regarding post operations, the post was closed on September 26th. Post leadership, along with the District Commander and the House Committee, convened to address a flyer posted on the door and political material placed on the fence. We have security footage of both incidents. Should the individual responsible be identified, whether a member or non-member, they will be banned from the post. The video footage and flyers will be presented at our next meeting.

Additionally, Michelle and Tammy Joe have resigned from their positions. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to them for their dedicated service to the post. Following a review of applicants, the House Committee has selected Denise Hesketh as our new Canteen Manager.

Finally, please review your annual membership status. Members with expired cards will not be permitted to make purchases at the bar or canteen, nor will they be able to attend meetings until their dues are updated.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Sincerely,
Commander Larry Ross

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT • SEASON 1, EPISODE 1

Meet a Vet

Greg Gilbertson — U.S. Navy Veteran

Profile based on *The Veteran's Voice*, S1E1

The first episode of *The Veteran's Voice* introduces Greg Gilbertson. This series is part of our effort to preserve the stories of Veterans so their experiences, lessons, and service are not lost to history.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Greg served as Post Commander for 2025–2026. During that year, Post 7824 earned All-American and All-State recognition and was honored as a 2026 Community Service Post—a record that reflects leadership grounded in service, teamwork, and responsibility to fellow veterans and the Vancouver community.

Greg's episode opens the door to the person behind the title and reminds us why veterans' stories matter. Watch the conversation to hear his experience in his own words and to begin this continuing series of service, memory, and connection.

Listen to S1E1: Greg Gilbertson

> **Share your story:** Veterans who would like to tell their stories in a future Meet a Vet feature may contact **Matt Wells at web@vfw7824.org** to arrange an interview. Interviews will be recorded for *The Veteran's Voice* podcast so each Veteran's story can be preserved and shared with future generations.

REFLECTION, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND SUPPORT

The Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Bob Meyers

Greetings, everyone, and God's blessings to you.

First, I want to make one thing clear: I do not favor any one religious tradition. Our military includes people of many faiths and beliefs. I am not here to preach hellfire and brimstone. My role is to lend a sympathetic ear and, when helpful, suggest ways to face the difficulties that come our way.

That leads me to a few words of a religious nature. Let's start with *Genesis*, the first book of the Old Testament. Its name means "beginning." I won't go through everything in that book, but its theme offers a thought for difficult times. If you cannot find a solution today, tomorrow may give you a new way to approach what has been troubling you. Each day is an opportunity for a new beginning.

Genesis tells us that, in the beginning, the earth was without form. God began the work of creation. There is much more to the story, and I encourage you to take out that Bible you may have tucked away and begin reading it for yourself.

Opening it is a first step. May tomorrow bring you a fresh perspective and renewed hope. God bless you, and I'll write more next month.

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

A Message from the VFW Auxiliary

By Martha Causey, Auxiliary President

Happy Fall!

Kudos to the 10 volunteers who worked at Stand Down! From sorting clothing on Thursday to staffing the booth on Friday, our Auxiliary members helped make a difference. Women Veterans picked up coats, socks, and backpacks and received other services from a host of agencies. It was truly a heartwarming event.

Our first Tuesday Night Dessert Sale was a huge success! Chocolate cake and cheesecake sold for $5 a slice. Our next Dessert Night is Tuesday, October 13. Dinner, dessert, and bingo—what a fun night at the Post!

Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale — October 24, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
There's still time to rent a table! Please contact Michelle Rex for information. Our Auxiliary members are also baking lots of goodies for the bake sale, so don't miss out on some yummy treats!

Youth Essay, Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy
October 31 is the deadline for entries. Encourage the kids in your family and neighborhood to participate in these great writing contests!

Post-Vietnam Veterans Lunch — November 14
We are planning a special lunch for our Post-Vietnam VFW members—Veterans who served in conflicts after the Vietnam War. A sign-up sheet will be available at the October VFW meeting and then at the bar. A "plus one" may attend for $12.

Stay Informed with VFW Action Corps Weekly

Want to stay up to date on issues affecting Veterans and their families? Sign up for VFW Action Corps Weekly, the VFW's weekly legislative and advocacy newsletter. It's a great way to learn what's happening in Washington and how it may affect Veterans.

As an Auxiliary, we strive to fulfill our mission of supporting our Veterans, their families, and our community. Thank you to everyone who continues to give their time, energy, and heart to make that mission happen!

Our next Auxiliary meeting is October 22.

Peace

Martha Causey

Auxiliary President

Canteen

A Farewell from Michelle

Well, friends, the time has come for me to write my final canteen update as the canteen manager of VFW Post 7824.

After 12 years, it is difficult to put into words what this place and all of you have meant to me. It has truly been my pleasure and honor to serve our veterans, our members, our families, and our community. I have met so many wonderful people along the way, and I have made memories that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

To those who have passed on during my years here: I have not forgotten you. Each of you touched my heart in one way or another, and you will always be a part of my memories of this post.

To all of you who have supported me, laughed with me, worked alongside me, shared a meal with me, or simply walked through those doors and made the canteen feel like home—thank you. I am grateful for every friendship, every conversation, every crazy night, and yes, even a few of the challenging days!

I have had the pleasure of working closely with many of the officers, volunteers, kitchen staff, and members throughout the years, and I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you.

I wish VFW Post 7824 nothing but the very best moving forward. I hope to see the post continue to grow, serve our veterans, and remain a place where people can come together and enjoy one another's company.

And don't worry—I will do my best not to be a stranger! You may see me around from time to time, and I certainly hope our paths continue to cross.

So, with a very full heart, I simply want to say:

Thank you for 12 wonderful years.

It has been a privilege to serve you.

God bless each and every one of you.

Farewell, friends.

October Events & Entertainment

Five Friday dinners, seven special events, and weekly activities offer plenty of reasons to gather at the Post.

Friday Night Dinners

October 2026 Dinner Menu

Friday, October 2	**Prime Rib** Loaded mashed potatoes, vegetable & salad bar
Friday, October 9	**Baked Chicken Thighs** Rice, vegetable & roll
Friday, October 16	**Beef Stroganoff** Salad & roll
Friday, October 23	**Pork Loin** Mashed potatoes, vegetable & roll
Friday, October 30	**Goulash** Garlic bread & dinner salad

Entertainment & Special Events

Saturday, October 3 — Our First Annual Oktoberfest!
Food specials will include bratwurst with sauerkraut and fried potatoes, along with appetizer specials including pretzel sticks with beer cheese. We'll also have beer specials throughout the evening.

Friday, October 9 — Live Music: The Slim Jims

Friday, October 16 — Bingo at 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 17 — Navy Birthday Celebration
We will be celebrating our Navy veterans! More information regarding the meal will be announced as it becomes available.

Friday, October 23 — Live Music: Bad Motor Scooter at 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 24 — VFW Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar
The bazaar begins at 9:00 AM and will feature more than 15 vendors. Come check out the handmade goods and enjoy the VFW Auxiliary bake sale!

Saturday, October 31 — Halloween Party
More information will be available in the canteen in the coming week, so be sure to check for details.

Weekly Activities

Every Monday — Pool Night

Every Wednesday — Queen of Hearts at 5:30 PM. Look forward to changes in our Wednesday taco menu!

Every Sunday — Queen of Hearts at 5:30 PM

Line Dancing — Thursday, October 1, and Thursday, October 15

Visit the Canteen Page

AROUND THE POST

Organization Updates

AMVETS

No Commander report was submitted by the publication date.

Scott Wilson
AMVETS Commander WA 6

AMVETS Auxiliary

The Amvet Ladies Auxiliary is having their meeting this Thursday October 1 at 7:00pm. Please plan to attend. It is important to get together in support of our Veterans and get to know each other as a group. It takes each of us as members to work together. We would especially like to thank Michelle for all her years of service to the post. We wish her the best! We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Debra Patten
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary President

Military Order of the Cootie

Cooties:
The next Cooties meeting will be on 10-11-2026 at 13:00.

Cooties Bingo will be at the CLC on 10-18-2026 at 13:00.

Ron Causey
Seam Squirrel
Van-Orc PT #6

MOC AuxSillyry continues our adventures with Veterans at the VA.

More patients are coming out for bingo, which is awesome, and they always thank us for being there.
The next Cootie Bingo will be Sunday, October 18th at 1:00 PM.
Remember, this is a PupTent-sponsored event, with the AuxSillyry joining in. At September Bingo, we had 5 Blackouts!

Liberty Belle quilt delivery will be on Tuesday, October 20th at 1:00 PM.

Our annual ice cream social for Halloween will be Wednesday, October 28th at 1:00 PM. As always, costumes will be our attire. Again, this is a joint Cootie function with the PupTent. - Bea Close, MOCA President

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.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Essay Entries Are Due October 31

Please share these VFW scholarship opportunities with students, parents, teachers, counselors, and youth organizations. The 2026–2027 theme for both contests is **“What a Veteran Taught Me About America.”**

Voice of Democracy

Grades 9–12: Prepare a 3–5 minute recorded audio essay and a written transcript using the official entry requirements.

Patriot’s Pen

Grades 6–8: Write a 300–400 word essay and submit it with the official entry form.

Post 7824 youth-program contact: youth@vfw7824.org

Get Official Rules & Entry Forms

PLAN YOUR MONTH

October 2026 Meeting Schedule

Microsoft Teams for Future Virtual Meetings

All future virtual meetings will use Microsoft Teams. Use the Teams link in the official meeting invitation and do not reuse an older Zoom link. You may join through the Teams app or a supported web browser; allow a few minutes before the meeting to check your audio and camera.

OCT 01	**AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary** 19:00-20:00
OCT 08	**VFW Post 7824 Monthly Meeting** 19:00-20:00
OCT 11	**MOCA** - 12:00-13:00 **MOC** - 13:00-14:00
OCT 15	**AMVETS** 19:00-20:00
OCT 22	**VFW Auxiliary** 19:00-20:00

All meetings are held at VFW Post 7824, 400 N Andresen Road, Vancouver, WA 98661.

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.

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.

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