

POST 34 NEWS



Glenn M. Sickels Post 34 of Kennewick-Pasco

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Commander's Corner

Greetings and Salutations American Legion Family! I hope everyone had a nice New Year's Eve. Membership cards started to be sent out on January 21st and completed on the 30th. The delay was due to a turnaround of my Adjutant resigning. This has taken a little longer than expected. But I do have a new Adjutant. Please welcome Dwayne Goche.

As of this moment I'm working on our bar renewal with the State, but due to their current schedule, they are dragging the feet. But we'll get there. Also, I'd like to add that we still have vacancies that need filling. I am hoping that there are those that would like to help and be part of the revitalization of our post will volunteer.

February 14th, the riders will be having their first breakfast of the year Sunday 8:00 am -10:00 am. Then two weeks later Sunday 28th, the Legionnaires will be holding their first breakfast of the year also from 8:00 am-10:00 am.

Check your calendar for your reminder and please come and join us, as I look forward to seeing you.

If anyone has any concerns or comments please let me know. I look forward to seeing al. I of you soon.

The General meeting will be the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

EBoard the 2nd Thursday of the month at 600pm.

We always have a need for volunteers on our breakfasts. A food handlers' card is easy.

In closing, God Bless America and the American Legion Family.

Garth Rettinghouse
Post 34 Commander



The Narrow Gate



Are you living to the fullest potential for your life?

Are you living for yourself or are you allowing God to direct your path to a life more abundant than you could EVER do on your own? Do you believe the bible? Do you consider it an outdated book of past experiences that have no bearing on YOUR life today?

If you will ask yourself, "what is the Message that the Bible is trying to tell me?", then you will see and understand that it is completely up to date at all times. Often that message is "where I can NOT find a way, God CAN!" God is the creator of the universe. You and I are still breathing that same 20.9% oxygen atmosphere, surviving with that same warmth from the Sun, and staying firmly fastened to that same Earth with that same gravity that existed when the Earth was made. He is the same today as he was 4,000 years ago and before. Only the people have changed.

When He spoke to Moses thru a "burning bush", He also told him to go forth and get His people ready to be set free from Egypt. Moses couldn't believe that he could be the one who would lead them out of Egypt because he limited the power of almighty God. He couldn't believe God had the power to set 2 million Israelite slaves free that had been in Egyptian bondage for 400 years. But God told him that "He would also go with him".

God will always provide a path for you and me to do the work that He wants to accomplish. And if He will send you, He will equip you for WHATEVER He asks you to do. It is not always about "US" at all. It is about us allowing ourselves to be "used" BY God to accomplish something for Him.

America is the strong country we are today because of God's vision for a free land. America has set its principles based on the scriptures of the

Bible and by the support those scriptures give us to survive against all the enemies we have faced.

What is so special about YOU or ME? The fact that God wants to use US to accomplish something that is important to Him. He could use ANY body, but he “chooses” US...initially. If we ignore Him, He WILL find and use someone else. Are you listening to His request for your life? Or are you just interested in what’s in it for you?

Trust God, talk to God, take time for God.....after all, He took time for you. He brought you into this world with a purpose! He wants to show you every day what that purpose is. Take time for Him.

“Choose” to be used.....

Murrel Petry
Post 34 Chaplain



The Final Note



We are hopefully at least halfway thru the winter season of our Honor Guard missions. We have had an exceptional request and turnout for these events that bring relatives and friends together for reasons that include grieving, recalling fond memories, and coming to a reality we each face only once in this life.

Our Honor Guard is made up of American Legion members, Women’s Auxiliary members, and SAL members (The American Legion umbrella). Also eligible are any other Veteran Service Organization (VSO) members. The common thread and requirement for our coveted team is the desire to participate in the funeral services for those former Service members in a manner that brings respect and Honor to them and their relatives/loved ones. It is a detail that at times momentarily chokes you up and takes your voice away. It is a moment of personal intervention in the very intimate last moments of a family with their Hero; a moment most of us would avoid if we didn’t have a personal commitment to this mission.

Pushing through that unsettling time and leaving the family believing their Hero got the proper and deserved respect, Honor, and sendoff is the goal of our Honor Guard members.

Services we supply are Taps, 3 volleys of Rifle Fire, a Soldier’s/Sailor’s Poem, Final Roll

Call/Muster, Flag folding/presentation, and Spent Shell Presentation. We all dress in the same uniform and perform as a single unit. We use fully functioning/genuine military M1 Garand rifles in .30 caliber on loan to the post by the U.S. Army.

We always are in need and desire of new members. If you meet the requirements and feel a desire to “give back” to the memory of those who have dedicated a portion of their lives to keeping you safe in your bed at night, please contact the Honor Guard Captain at 509-627-9038.

Murrel Petry
Post 34 Honor Guard Captain



American Legion Riders News

Hello fellow Riders!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

During the general membership meeting in January, it was decided that the ALR is going to host a Valentine’s Day breakfast. Breakfast will be on February 14th from 8:00 am-10:00 am with the cost at only \$8. Members are encouraged to invite their family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you are able to help and have a current Food Handler’s card, we start breakfast prep at 6:00am and would appreciate the help.

Our vacant SGT at Arms position was filled by Jason Wells. Garth Rettinghouse and Bob Smith agreed to continue on as our Chaplain and Quartermaster.

Please welcome our newest member, Christie Lawler!

It is that time of year again to start preparing for our Annual Patriot Day event. This is a huge undertaking, and we need maximum participation with planning and execution. Committees will be formed and planning soon will be underway. We need all members' support.

If you are like me and have not ridden in a couple months, don’t forget to do some preventative maintenance before you hit the roads when the weather warms up.

Stay safe out there and look out for one another!

Jeff “Mad Dog” Madsen
ALR Chapter 34 Director





Taps for a Comrade



Post 34 was notified on February 2nd that **Ken Vails**, 85, a long time and beloved member has passed.

Ken was a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving one tour as a medic in Vietnam. Ken was a Physician Assistant at Hanford Environmental Health Foundation (HEHF) at Hanford and one of the key team members in selecting and implementing the Occupational Health Information System used at the Hanford Site.

Ken was a friendly face at the Post, always smiling, and looking to play a joke on someone. Ken touched many lives over the years as the Post Chaplain and Honor Guard Chaplain for over a decade. As Post Chaplain he was busy visiting with people at the Post over coffee, visiting members in the Hospital, traveling to see shut-ins, and comforting individuals at funerals. Ken was busy at the Post attending meetings, helping in the kitchen, setting up for events or cleaning up the Post.

Ken was a member of the American Legion Riders and was their Chaplain. Ken completed many rides on his scooter. Ken will be missed greatly as he made the world a better place because of his presence.

Rest in Peace, your watch is complete.

The American Legion Post 34 Honor Guard will provide Military Honors for Ken Vails on Thursday, February 4th at 2:00 pm at Mueller’s Desert Lawn Memorial, 10th and Union, Kennewick.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public is not allowed to attend.

Post 34 American Legion Officers 2020 - 2021

- Commander Garth Rettinghouse
- Adjutant..... Dwayne Goche
- 1st Vice Commander Bob Smith
- 2nd Vice Commander (Vacant)
- Finance Officer Frank Akerley
- Service Officer (Vacant)
- Chaplain..... Murrel Petry
- Sergeant at Arms Luz Medrano
- Historian..... (Vacant)
- Judge Advocate (Vacant)
- Honor Guard Captain..... Murrel Petry
- Junior Past Commander Bob Trethewey
- 1st Year Committeeman Bob Wiggins
- 2nd Year Committeeman Dave Cadman
- 3rd Year Committeeman..... Edward Houghtaling

Squadron 34 S.A.L. Officers 2020 - 2021

- Commander Kurt Bautch
- 1st Vice Commander Doug Schmunk
- 2nd Vice Commander Dick McIntyre
- Adjutant..... Kurt Bautch
- Finance Officer Kurt Bautch
- Sergeant at Arms (Vacant)
- Chaplain..... Jim Reed (Dual member)
- Legion Advisers Bob Wiggins (Dual member)
Bruce McKee

Chapter 34 AL Riders Officers 2021

- Director Jeff “Mad Dog” Madsen
- Assistant Director..... John “Jake Brake” Wilson
- Secretary Tammy “Gingersnap” Madsen
- Treasurer Frank Akerley
- Sergeant at Arms Jason Wells
- Road Captain Chuck “Woodchuck” Cutrell
- Quartermaster..... Bob “Caveman” Smith
- Chaplain..... Garth “Bebop” Rettinghouse