

# POST 34 NEWS



Glenn M. Sickels Post 34 of Kennewick-Pasco

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### Commander's Corner

Greetings and salutations to all at The American Legion.

First and foremost, after 2 years and 4 months being closed the Legion post lounge is open now, as of Friday, April 16th. For now, the hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 2pm to 9pm, but these times are subject to change to accommodate our members.

I would like to give very heartfelt appreciation to those that for 3 days worked in our kitchen to clean and make it presentable. We had a rented hall Sat. Again, thank you. You all know who you are.

Recently we had a family member involved in a very serious accident, Ed Houghtaling. On Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> he was brought back from Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane to continue his recovery at Our Lady of Lourdes in Pasco. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Ed and his wife Lisa. A poker run for Ed is planned for May 22<sup>nd</sup> and there is a GoFundMe account on the Internet. If anyone would like to donate in other than those two ways, please contact me at the Legion.

Summer is upon us as more activities are outside of the Legion as people travel and these activities keep us away. But the Legion is open and planned events again will soon happen as fall starts Sept. Then we'll again begin to have dinners & breakfasts on our monthly calendar. And there will also be more activities in the lounge such as karaoke, open mike nights, etc.

Elections our being held at this month's general meeting on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

I look forward to serving you and our American Legion.

Feel free to come see and talk with me anytime regarding the Legion.

God Bless America, our troops, and The American Legion.

Garth Rettinghouse  
Post 34 Commander



### The Narrow Gate



Matthew 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has

something against you,

<sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Many families have members that are upset with one another and never experience harmony because they don't know what the Bible has to say about forgiveness. The Bible, God's own WORD from Him to Man, says that before you practice spiritual rituals, such as tithing, you should first take note of any issues you may have with your friends and acquaintances. God is more interested in harmonious hearts than in money. Anger and animosity toward one another blocks our ability to make rational decisions and choices; decisions and choices that work toward the betterment of whatever cause we are involved in.

When we find ourselves in the midst of a disagreement with our "brother" or our "sister", the Bible encourages us to try to work out our issue by finding common ground and "burying the hatchet", so to speak. Forgive them because you have the ability and the power to do that. The Bible advises us that if we do not forgive others, WE will not be forgiven.

THEN when you once again are in harmony, THEN go back to the altar and make your physical offering to the Lord.

Again, relationships come first to God. After all, He doesn't need your money. You and I can't outgive God anyway.....

Murrel Petry  
Post 34 Chaplain



### The Final Note



Some Military Honors Missions are tougher than others.....for different reasons, however. A few weeks ago, we had a young lady standing in the crowd who was paying close attention; hanging on every word, you might say. As I delivered the Sailor's Poem, she would nod her head with each phrase and my focus wandered so much that I forgot to direct the flag detail to present the flag. Next thing I knew I was giving the order to "Fire". Fortunately, the flag detail was wearing their Red Ball Jets (shoes from 50's commercials) and they got the flag opened up with record speed.

2 weeks ago, I was calling The Roll and when I came to the deceased's name.....that's right, NOTHING came to mind....NADA....ZIP!..... Finally, the last name came to me, then the first. As if the initial long pause wasn't bad enough, I then spoke the first name that came to me...the WRONG middle name. I was told later that someone in the funeral gathering just put their hand to their forehead and shook their head in dismay. Fortunately, I had an opportunity to apologize for the slip-up in the parking lot to one of the close friends. But errors just sometimes happen, even with careful preparation.

Recently we had a funeral in which my friend's brother was the deceased. All was going as expected until I rang the bell. At that point, my friend broke down completely....the sound of a funeral bell ringing has such an effect of "finality" about it. We have NO option except to push through it and if my voice waivers and my lip quivers.....so be it. Our Mission is to bestow Honor on these veterans to the friends, relatives, and former comrades in arms he/she leaves behind.

We do have funerals that result in what a nurse might report as "unremarkable" or "just the way it was planned".

Regardless of the outcome, we continually train and practice in an effort to polish our presentation so each Veteran's last celebration is the best we can help make it.

If you "have what it TAKES" to be an Honor Guard member, we will "take what you HAVE."

Contact Honor Guard Cap'n Petry at 509-627-9038.

As Veterans or current service members, most of us realize at any one time we are only a heartbeat away from being "formally" eligible for the services of a Military Honor Guard. If anyone has a question about this month's topic or any other matter of the heart, please contact your Post Chaplain.

Murrel Petry  
Post 34 Honor Guard Captain




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### American Legion Riders News

Greetings fellow riders.

The warmer weather is finally upon us, which means more opportunities for all of us to get together. Please take this time to ensure that your bikes are in good working order. Take a moment to make sure that your registration is up to date and that your insurance is valid. Don't neglect your tires! The pressures may have dropped over the winter, so make sure they are properly inflated.

We need ideas for our ride in September. It was discussed at the last meeting that it's not the best idea to go out and ask businesses for donations as usual after

the year we just had. That means we are going to have to get creative with ways to raise funds for our ride. Please bring your ideas to the meeting and feel free to do some research beforehand to share with us.

By now, I'm sure that you have all heard about Ed "Dirty Ho" Houghtaling and the accident and his injuries as a result. Due to many factors, as a group the Executive Board made a decision not to have a poker run. Time restraints and lack of volunteers to be a big reason is one. Thankfully, Legion friends, Matty & Jared Rowland and other fellow motorcycle groups have stepped up and will be holding a ride for Ed on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Information will be put out on our Facebook page with details. There are many ways besides hosting a ride to raise money to help one of our own. If anyone has any ideas for fundraisers, please let a member of the Executive Board know so it can be voted on and implemented. There is also a GoFundMe page set up for Ed which you can find on the American Legion Riders Chapter 34 Facebook page as well. We wish our brother Ed a speedy recovery and our love goes to his wife Lisa during this difficult time.

We will NOT leave our family behind despite what is being said. Things get taken care of privately and not everything needs to be in the public eye.

With that being mentioned, there's been a lot of rumors going around about the direction of this group. I have had zero communication with anyone outside of the group about recent events. This tells me that there has been talks with other people or groups without my consent or my knowledge. The Director is the figurehead of this organization and as such should be the one to answer questions or disseminate information outside the group. I ask you to please let me do my job and come to me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (509) 845-5780.

Safety is always our concern and should be a priority for everyone. Please be safe on the roads and I will see you out there soon.

Jeff "Mad Dog" Madsen  
ALR Chapter 34 Director



**Post 34 American Legion Officers 2020 - 2021**

Commander ..... Garth Rettinghouse  
Adjutant ..... Dwayne Goché  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander ..... Bob Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander ..... (Vacant)  
Finance Officer ..... (Vacant)  
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  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Committeeman ..... Bob Wiggins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Committeeman ..... Dave Cadman  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Committeeman ..... Edward Houghtaling

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

Commander ..... Kurt Bautch  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander ..... Doug Schmunk  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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