



The Bulletin

The American Legion
Washington Post 2
Forest Grove



May 2026

Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires;

TEDDY BEARS NEEDED. American Legion Riders Teddy Bear Run. KSU @ 11 am. With the Department van full of bears and a police escort, the riders will be leaving Chinook Winds Casino Saturday, June 27th and heading to the Children's Advocacy Center of Lincoln County located in Newport, Oregon. This run is being held in conjunction with the 107th annual Department of Oregon Convention. If you would like to donate a Teddy Bear, contact me at forestgrovepost2@gmail.com and I will arrange to meet you. Wendy



About American Legion Riders:

As part of The American Legion family, today over 425 American Legion Riders programs (organized by chapters, districts, or departments) support Americanism and Children and Youth programs in virtually every state in the nation, and more are organizing each month. One of the fastest-growing and most highly visible of the many programs offered by The American Legion, The American Legion Riders are a very diverse group, and so are the programs that they support.

What do American Legion Riders do? The activities are far too many to mention in this space, but here are a few examples: American Legion Riders have become some of the most generous donors for the **American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund**, raising as much as \$5,000 or more in a single event. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized. Who can apply?

- * Children, adopted child or stepchild of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.
- * Children, adopted child or stepchild of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

Legion Riders participate in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as **"Rolling Thunder"**. Legion Riders sponsor or participate in local and national charity events in support of the sponsoring American Legion Post. Legion Riders support such organizations as local VA hospitals, battered women and children's centers, varied children and youth programs, a school for blind children, veterans relief, needy families and many, many others.

Legion Riders founded a national movement called **"Patriot Guard"** (www.patriotguard.org) that honors and protects the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services. Legion Riders have formed special motorcycle Honor Guards and ceremonial teams highlighting the special bonds formed in military service and the motorcycling community. Legion Riders have also begun to teach motorcycle and driver safety in the community and in schools in cooperation with **ABATE** and other national motorcycling organizations.

Commander's Thoughts

Dale Thaler legiondalepost2@gmail.com (503) 333-2340



Greetings once again Legionnaires! For now, the sky is blue and the grass is green. Hopefully it will remain so for our annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, the 25th. Come join us and help honor more than 250 years of veterans serving and sacrificing for our democracy. Music this year will be courtesy of the Neil Armstrong Middle School Choir. The ceremony begins promptly at 11:00 AM with the presentation of the Colors. Speakers for the day will be myself; Ms. Anna Elliott, NAMS Choir Director, speaking about her uncle's service; and recently retired Forest Grove Police Chief, Henry Reimann, long time public servant, Army Veteran and Post 2 member. Honoring generations who stepped up seems a daunting task, but we will do our best. The ceremony will end with the raising of the Nations Colors to full staff precisely at noon. I hope to see you all there.

I hope most of you know that we were given a Community Enhancement Program Grant to obtain a design for a city Veterans Tribute Park; this was done through Forest Grove Veterans Action Network. We will be having a booth at the Farmers Market on the Second Tuesdays throughout the summer. Come by and check out our progress in working with Place Landscape Architects and provide your feedback. We will be there from 4 PM - 8 PM every second Wednesday this month. Our tent should be close to our Legion Building on 21st Ave. Bring along prospective members for the Post or Auxiliary. We should also have some older combat memorabilia for you to take a look at.

Elections were held last month; you will have to enjoy (or ignore) my comments for a while longer. Thank you for your confidence in me to guide this post for another year. I'm sure our Adjutant will have all the results listed elsewhere in the bulletin. Officer positions are now set for the next year, but we could certainly use a few members to step forward and lead some of our committees and youth programs. I will eagerly check my emails and texts every day for volunteers - you WILL get a response. If you are available, come and see us at the next Auxiliary Breakfast next Monday the 18th at the Post. At 10 AM we will be serving french toast, sausage, eggs and fruit.

Our exercise program with Kayla Speer will be ending about the time you read this. Whether we can continue it on our own is to be determined. Five of us went to Diego Reyna's Capstone presentation for his sessions. Most of us have better flexibility, mobility and greater balance. It's quite amazing how beneficial chair exercise can be to improve your overall health. You may be too late to join her exercise program, but you can still make our Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, May 16th. We form up and prepare at 8:30 AM and begin the ceremony at around 9:00 with the help of the members of our Scouting America Troop 2060.

Speaking of Troop 2060, they are reminding us that history repeats itself. Last year, our sponsored troop had Elijah Jones complete his Eagle Scout ranking. This year, John Henry Wright completed his Eagle Scout ranking. Last year, Elijah was submitted for, and won, the Department of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year; this year John Henry was submitted, and won, as well. For two years in a row, our Post 2 Troop 2060 Eagle Scouts have won the Department of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year and its corresponding scholarship. Congratulations to Scoutmaster Lincoln Wright and his staff as well as Eagle Scouts Elijah Jones and John Henry Wright!

And now, the dreaded last paragraph -MEMBERSHIP!! Unfortunately, it appears we will be nine members short of attaining our 2026 goal of 128 members unless nine of you who have failed to renew and are residing in membership purgatory get off your a**es and renew online. Our adjutant is the Membership Chair for the Department; it's pretty sad that her post cannot meet their own membership goal. She is normally the one to give the Post shout out for the month. I want to give Wendy Berger-Wood a shout out for moving the Department of Oregon's national membership standing from 30th in the nation to 18th. Kudos Wendy!! Maybe if enough of you do a last minute renewal, we can reach 100% and Oregon can climb to 17th. Ah well, a guy can dream!! Until next month.

Have you signed up for your free Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy? It's a benefit to you for being a member of The American Legion. Go to: www.theLIT.com for more information



Chaplain's Corner

Jim Clute
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USS Laboon

Father John Francis Laboon, SJ and the USS Laboon

John Francis Laboon, Jr., a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native, born April 11, 1921, was a member of the Class of 1944 at the U.S. Naval Academy and a distinguished athlete. In World War II, Ensign Laboon was awarded the Silver Star for bravery for diving from his submarine, the USS PETO, to rescue a downed aviator while under heavy fire. Lieutenant Laboon left the Navy after the war to enter the Jesuits. With the Navy never far from his thoughts, he returned to his beloved "blue and gold" as a chaplain in 1958. For the next twenty-one years, he served the Navy-Marine Corps team in virtually every community and location including tours in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, and Vietnam, where he received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for his fearless action as battlefield chaplain. He was the first chaplain assigned to a Polaris Submarine Squadron and Senior Catholic Chaplain at the Naval Academy. Captain Laboon retired in in 1979 as Fleet Chaplain, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and died in 1988.

The launching of the guided missile destroyer Laboon nicknamed the "Fearless 58" took place on February 20, 1993, at Bath Iron Works. The commissioning of the USS Laboon took place on March 18, 1995, in Norfolk, VA. Throughout a lifetime of service to God and Country, Chaplain Laboon was an extraordinary example of dedication to Sailors and Marines everywhere.

The Charter has been draped:

James Dorman, Sr. June 10, 1934 – January 16, 2026 USA Korean War Era
Herbert Hirst, May 3, 1938 – February 16, 2026 USA Vietnam
John Vallery, May 1, 1940 – March 1, 2026 USAF Vietnam War Era
Mike Marshall, February 9, 1946 – April 5, 2026 Navy Vietnam War
Don Yeargin II, May 18, 1959 – April 26, 2026 Army Cold War



Let us sincerely say:
"May their souls rest in peace."

If you move, change your phone number or email address, please let us know at:
forestgrovepost2@gmail.com (503) 389-5927 Post 2, 2003 21st Ave., Forest Grove, OR 97116

The following are the Post 2 officers for 2026/2027:

Commander: Dale Thaler
Vice Commander: Ron Rabinowitz
Adjutant/Finance Officer: Wendy Berger Wood
Chaplain: Mike Standing
Sgt-at-Arms: Todd Brainard
Member-at-Large Position 1: Mike Perrault
Member-at-Large Position 2: Todd Brainard
Member-at Large Position 3: Jim Henry


The following are the Unit 2 officers for 2026/2027:

President: Juanita Lint
Vice President: Chris Orsborn
Secretary/Treasurer: Wendy Berger Wood
Chaplain: Dianne Standing
Sgt-at-Arms: Dale Thaler
Historian: Sheri Russell

Membership Chair: Chris Orsborn
Poppy Chair: Sheila Goslin
Girls State Chair: Karla Thaler

Stick Vet ~Chick Vet

Because I am a Woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed.
If I fail, no one will say, "She doesn't have what it takes."; They will say, "Women don't have what it takes"
~Clare Boothe Luce



by Travis Landchild

Auxiliary News



Poppy Tables will be in front of Safeway over Memorial Day weekend. Come by and say "hello" to us or come and sit a spell and say "hello" to the community members as they pass by. Either way, we'll be happy to see you.

An envelope has been provided with this mailing. If you can't join us, please consider a donation.

Juanita Lint President, Unit 2



Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 16th – Flag Retirement Ceremony – City Lot 19th & Ash – 9 am

Tuesday, May 19th – General Membership Meeting – 7 pm (6 pm Social Hour)

Friday, May 22nd – Flag Placing @ Cornelius Methodist Cemetery – 10 am

Saturday, May 23rd – Flag Placing @ Mt View Cemetery Mausoleum – 9 am

Fri/Sat/Sun, May 22/23/24 – Poppy Tables @ Safeway

Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day Observance @ Forest View Cemetery – 11 am

Monday, June 1st – E-Committee Meeting – 6 pm

Thursday, June 4th – ALA Meeting – 6 pm

Wednesday, June 10th – Legion Booth @ Farmers Market – 4 pm to 8 pm

W/Th/F/S Jun 24-27 – American Legion Convention – Chinook Winds Casino



LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS:

The American Legion strongly supports the latest effort to eliminate the unjust offset that penalizes thousands of combat-injured veterans.

This long-overdue reform—backed by The American Legion and more than 60 other military and veteran organizations—would ensure that combat-injured retirees can receive both their Department of Defense retirement pay and the disability compensation earned through their sacrifices. Current law reduces retirement pay by the exact amount of VA disability compensation received, a policy that punishes wounded veterans for their service and injury. We call this what it is: a “wounded veteran tax,” and it must end.

The standalone bill has overwhelming bipartisan support, with 313 cosponsors in the House and 77 in the Senate as of January 2026—more than enough to pass if brought to a floor vote.

The American Legion urges Congress to do right by our nation’s combat-wounded heroes and pass this amendment without delay. These veterans have already paid more than their fair share. Let your voice be heard at:

<https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/116903/Respond>

Help Stop Veteran Suicides. Go to:

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training

Do you have a Bottle Drop account? If you’re willing to occasionally rotate in one of our blue non-profit bags for one of your green bags, let me know and I will get the bag(s) to you.

forestgrovepost2@gmail.com or 503-389-5927



RED White & BAZAAR

CALLING ALL VENDORS

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

from 10:00 am - 4 pm

WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- LOCAL ARTISANS & MAKERS
- HANDMADE CRAFTS & GOODS
- PATRIOTIC-THEMED VENDORS
- VETERAN-OWNED AND COMMUNITY-BASED BUSINESSES

INSIDE BOOTHS
6FT TABLES \$40
VETERANS - \$35



OUTSIDE BOOTHS
10 X 10 SPACE \$35
VETERANS - \$30

VENDOR SPACES ARE LIMITED—APPLY EARLY!
TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE

EMAIL: HILLSBOROPOSTNO.6@GMAIL.COM

AMERICAN LEGION
HILLSBORO POST 6
285 W. MAIN ST. , HILLSBORO, OR 97123

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS