

# The Buckboard Bulletin

"First to serve our Veterans"

September 2008

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Comrades,

This is my first message to you all. Thanks for electing me as your Commander. We are going to continue down the path we have been traveling. We have some things we will be working on, one which is my personal goal, and that is to restart our Christmas program back up this year for our local kids.

A lot has been happening. We had the post picnic and the camp out where I cooked burgers and dogs for the troops there, and we had a great time. I would like to thank Auxiliary President Lori Merritt for all of her hard work in planning and organizing the Picnic this year.

I would like to remind everyone that Oregon Trail Superintendent Shelley Redinger will be the guest speaker at our next meeting. It will be a joint session with us and the Auxiliaries. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Let's have a good turnout. There will be a pot luck dinner before the meeting with hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the post. We do need people to bring in chips and such to go with that.

On a sad note I have to let you know that Nick Roth passed away on 24 August. He will most definitely be missed. Our prayers and sympathy go out to his family. There were many post members at his funeral.

Last week was the golf tournament. It was very successful. Many thanks to all those who helped make that happen.

If you have not been into the post lately, come by and say hi, and see the changes we have made. Fill out a slip and drop it into the suggestion box for any concerns or changes you would like to see made. Thank you.

Allen Anderson, Commander

## President's Message

Ladies,

As the Summer comes to an end our programs really get underway and I am excited to get going with them. Last year I made the Fisher House my project and because of you it was a huge success. We were able to raise much needed funds for a great program. This year I am making the Snowball Express my project. This is a wonderful program that gives the children of our fallen heroes a few days away to a dream destination. It is compared to the Make A Wish program. I am planning to do a couple of Breakfast/BINGO's myself this year so please plan on coming down and supporting this very worthwhile program. If anyone is interested in doing a B&B or any other fundraiser for this program or any other program please let me know.

We have some great upcoming events planned so check the calendar for dates and times.

On a very sad note, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Penny and the rest of Nick Roth's family. His passing is a great loss to us here at the VFW and to the whole community. He will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to have known this wonderful man.

Lori Merritt, President

### September Calendar

Sept 7	Breakfast and BINGO (Men's Aux) 10:00 AM
Sept 10	House Committee Meeting 5:30 PM
Sept 12	Auxiliary Meeting 6:45 PM / Post Meeting 8:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner
Sept 13	Men's Auxiliary Meeting 2:00 PM
Sept 14	BINGO (Ladies Aux) 1:00 PM
Sept 20	Spaghetti Dinner 5-8:00 pm (Tickets \$8)
Sept 21	Breakfast/BINGO (Post) 10:00 AM
Sept 26	September Birthday Party 7:00 PM
Sept 28	Breakfast/BINGO (Ladies Aux) 10:00 AM
Oct 5	Breakfast/BINGO (Post) 10:00 AM

**From Your Editor**

Bert Key

Newsletter articles are due September 21, for the October Newsletter.

Contact your editor at:  
**bert.key@us.army.mil**

**Men's Auxiliary  
President's Message**

Hello gentlemen.

The Summer is almost over and we had a successful Picnic and Golf Tournament.

To get us started for this year we are going to host a Breakfast/BINGO on Sept. 7. We have another Breakfast on Oct 12. I have also volunteered to do a Shrimp Fettuccine Alfredo Dinner on October 18. I will be needing some help on these so let me know if you can assist. We will discuss it more at the 13 September meeting.

If any of you have any potential members bring them in and get them signed up. We are still on of only two men's auxiliaries in the state. The other one has 51 members, so it would not take a lot for us to pass them up in numbers. Let's see what we can do. Have a great rest of the Summer!

Bob Dunn, President

**The Post Chaplain**

**Nick Roth**

Chaplain Nick Roth died on 24 August from cancer. He was born in Portland. He attended grade school in Portland and graduated from Benson H.S. He received his degree in business from the University of Portland and was then drafted into the Army on 1 November 1950. Honorably discharged on 31 July in 1953, he returned to Portland and began his career in the grocery business. On 16 August 1954 he married Shirley Stradley in Gresham. They made their home in Portland while he pursued his career with Food Fair and Safeway. In June 1964, the family moved to Sandy. He was employed at Thriftway until retiring.

Nick was actively involved in his children's swimming activities and rarely missed meets. He was a lifetime member of Sandy VFW 4273, where he served as chaplain and commander.

He is survived by his companion of 19 years, Penny Edwards, daughters Karen Craig, Gayle Cutaia, sons Steven Roth, Chris Roth, Matthew Roth, and Demian Colts, brother George Roth, sister Ruth Schiele, and hundreds of VFW brothers and sisters around the country. God bless you Nick. We will miss you.

**The Auxiliary Chaplain**

**Brier Chung**

Sisters,

I would like to thank you for giving me the honor of being your new Chaplain. I look forward to meeting each of you over the next year. I need your help. If you know of any of our members who are in need please contact me at brier.chung@gmail.com or 503 887-9700, or leave a message at the canteen. May the good Lord bless us all.

**CANCER PROGRAM UPDATE**

WOW!! We are off to a great start for our Cancer Program this year. Sandy VFW Ladies and Team Voriece's RACE FOR THE CURE OF BREAST CANCER had a garage sale and raffle. The garage sale raised \$1038.41 and the raffle raised \$112.00. The winners were Jackie Key, Matt Haider and Brier Chung. Way to go everyone!! Thank you to everyone who helped. My apology to Sandy Post 4273 and it's Men's and Ladies Auxiliary. I put your names in my e-mail to the Sandy Post, but the editor failed to include them in his article.

We will be having another raffle starting soon. Please buy lots of tickets. We will also be having a breakfast Sunday, October 19. If you would like to help please let me know, Voriece Blair—503 668-4237.

**Your Membership Dues  
ARE NOW DUE**

**Send in your dues  
NOW!**

**Lets make our Post and  
Auxiliaries 100%  
Again this year!**

Post Officers	2008-2009	Auxiliary Officers	
Commander	Allen Anderson	President	Lori Merritt
Senior Vice Commander	Mike Horttor	Sr. Vice President	Helene Hawkins
Junior Vice Commander	Jim Mitchell	Jr. Vice President	Christie Horttor
Chaplain	Nick Roth	Treasurer	Jackie Key
Quartermaster	Tim Wilson	Chaplain	Brier Chung
Judge Advocate	John Lamb	Secretary	Dora Fitzpatrick
Adjutant	Al Gagnon	Guard	Kit Spitzengel
Surgeon	Dan Copher	Conductress	Carol Engblom

**CANTEEN CORNER**

**Lori Merritt**

**FROM THE SANDBOX.....**

It has been a while since my last update. We have completed our mid-tour battlefield transition from Baghdad to the Diyala Province. It is quite a different environment up here, and we are engaged in a more kinetic type of fight.

Our Troop is doing well, and despite the multiple Improvised Explosive Devices and some direct fire contact, the spirit of the Troop has been high. Our soldiers continue to "suit up" every day, knowing what they are about to embark on, and the possibility of being in harms way. Unfortunately that reality hit home for our 20 man Platoon on 15 July.

While conducting a combat clearance in our Troop sector, SSG Jeremy Vrooman, one of my section leaders, was killed when a house borne IED detonated on him and two more of my soldiers. One has returned to the unit, after digging himself out from the rubble. He insisted on staying and assisting in the extraction of his teammates. The other soldier has received awesome medical care and is on his way to Walter Reed, and will likely recover from the physical scars. After witnessing the explosion, our soldiers rushed into action a displayed valor under fire. Knowing that another device existed under the rubble, we went to digging for our fallen team member. I had to back off on a couple of occasions for tactical control, and was able to see the flurry of work in action, and it was awe inspiring. A collection of young, determined soldiers, dinging for their comrades, knowing at any moment another bomb could go off. The best of America's youth at work that day!

Despite the best efforts and super fast medical evacuation by helicopter, the surgeons were not able to save Jeremy. This has been the darkest hour for our platoon, and for his wife and two children he leaves behind. I was privileged enough to make it to the morgue in Baghdad and personally, along with fellow soldiers, put him on the helicopter to the Baghdad Airport for his final HERO FLIGHT home. These are images and sounds I will never be able to forget. The hardest thing I, and several others, are wrestling with is having to hear them cry for help and not being able to move in due to EOD having to clear the rubble. That is a sound I don't wish on anybody.

We are continuing with our mission; it's the only way to honor his sacrifice, and that of all the others. We continue to keep him and his family in our prayers, and ask that you do the same. Thank you for all your support from the home front.

Sincerely, Alex Heller

There will be more than a few people excited about this announcement? **BREAKFAST/BINGO's ARE BACK!** We will be having them three Sundays each month with the fourth Sunday being a **BINGO** only. The Men's Auxiliary will kick off the first one on September 7. Check the calendar for dates.

Tickets go on sale at the Canteen for the Hershberger/Wilson/LeDoux Spaghetti Dinner set for September 20 from 5-8:00 pm. Ticket price is \$8.00 each. Do not miss out on this tasty dinner or you will be kicking yourself. Support your Post Activities.

Don't forget that we have Birthday parties every month for those born in that month. Come join in on the fun and celebrate with your friends. Members with birthdays during the month get a free drink on the house at the party.

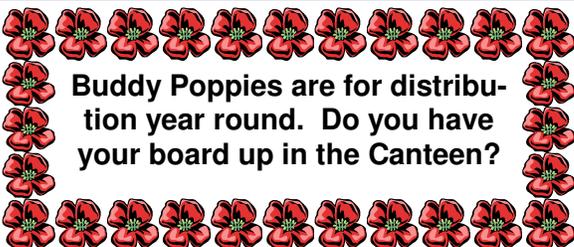
The Halloween Party is just around the corner , so start thinking about a costume to amaze and/or in some cases, horrify your friends. I will not mention any names but I think you know who you are.

Amy Seymour and husband Mike announce the arrival of Nathaniel Elliott, August 8th. He weighed in at 9lbs, 8 oz, and 22 inches long. Chris and Greg Stadstad are proud grandparents.

A big "THANK YOU" goes to :

\*Jose Peralta for his donation of sugar and wine for the Bake and Sew Ladies.

\*Jackie Key, Brenda Truesdale, Jewel Lamb, Susan Johnson, Christie Horttor, Loretta Wilson, and Betty Haider for their tremendous help in making the Golf Tournament a smashing success.



**Buddy Poppies are for distribution year round. Do you have your board up in the Canteen?**



**NEW**

Introducing the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Premier Dental Insurance Plan

Find out more (including cost, exclusions, limitations and terms of coverage), go to the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Insurance Program website ([www.nebenefit.com/lavfw](http://www.nebenefit.com/lavfw)) and click on Insurance Plans or call, 1-800-808-4514 to ask our Customer Care Representatives for the details.

**Thank you** to Voriece Blair, Betty Haider, Lori Merritt, JoAnn and Marty LeDoux, Matt Haider, and Christie Horttor for performing the Ladies Auxiliary ritual and helping out with the funeral for Anna Esping. I sincerely appreciate it and I know the family did as well.  
**Laura Baron**

