

# The Buckboard Bulletin

"First to serve our Veterans"

December 2007

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here is hoping you all had a great Thanksgiving Holiday. Ours was perfect. This is the first one with my new grand daughter, Madison, and she is so much fun. She is such a pretty baby. And now get ready, Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanza are just around the corner.

I would like to thank all of you who turned out for the Veterans Day ceremony held at the statue. Boy Scout Troop 662 was there to help out as were our own Sergeant Andrew Best, Sergeant First Class Ernie Armenta, Staff Sergeant Nate Bodle, Chuck Lutz, Nick Roth and Tim Wilson. It was my high honor to give the main address. The potluck laid out by the Auxiliary was tremendous. A nice time was had by everyone in attendance. Thank you all.

As you know, we now have a Men's Auxiliary up and running. The charter is open for the next 90 days so if you know of any eligible man who might be interested in becoming a charter member, get him an application from the Post.

The District 15 Commander held his School of Instruction at the Sandy Post a couple of weeks ago. The turn out was very good. Thanks to Jim Mitchell, Tim Wilson, Mike Horttor, Darrell Crall, Bob Dunn and Lori Merritt for being in attendance. A lot of good information was covered.

Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Red Lion in Medford on 9-10 February. Get your reservations made. It would be great if Sandy could have a good number in attendance. Our Voice of Democracy candidate has a very good chance of winning the District Title.

Recruiting is going rather slowly. At this point we are at 75% strength. If you have not paid your dues for 2008 please do so at this time. Your membership is very important to the success of this Post. In past years Post 4273 has led the state in recruiting and I believe we can this year as well. Recruit some one soon!

The new Oregon Trail School Superintendent will be our guest on December meeting night. Dr. Shelly Redinger is talking to the civic groups in the community and will be here at 7:30 pm to speak on, and answer questions about her vision for the future of the schools in our community. Please be on time.

We have much to be thankful for and I want to sincerely wish you all the happiest of Holiday Seasons.

Semper Fil!

Bert Key, Commander

## President's Message

Ladies,

This year has passed by so quickly, it is hard to believe that Christmas is just a few weeks away already. I think all of us may become a little more sentimental at this time of year, I know I do. The holidays are a time for family, good friends, and memories of those we have lost. Remember to always cherish the time you have with the ones you love.

We had a great turnout for our Veterans Day ceremony. Our Commander, Bert Key delivered an exceptionally moving speech. I do not think there were many dry eyes in the crowd. We are very fortunate to have such a caring person as our Commander. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Bert this year and I have to say that he is one of the finest men I know. He truly cares about our Veterans. I would like to thank Bert for all he has done for the Post to make it even better than when he took command.

We are still looking for families for our Adopt-A-Family program. If anyone knows of a family in need for Christmas please contact me as soon as possible at 503-668-9408. Also, we have a several events planned for this month, so check the calendar for dates and times.

Congratulations to Bert and Jackie on the arrival of their first grandchild. Oh, and to Kris and Louann Key, good job mom and dad. Madison is adorable!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Everyone bring a baby picture of yourself to the New Year's Eve Party. Thank you.

Lori Merritt, President

## Calendar of Coming Events

- December 2: Breakfast/BINGO (Aux)
- December 9: BINGO at 1:00 pm Open to the Public
- December 12: House Committee Meets 5:30 pm
- December 14: Meeting Night Pot Luck 5:45 pm  
Aux Meets 6:45 pm, Post 8:00 pm
- December 16: Breakfast/BINGO (Post)
- December 22: Christmas & Birthday Party 6pm
- December 25: Christmas Day (Canteen Closed)
- December 31: New Year's Eve Party 8 pm (Baby picture)

**From Your Editor**

Jackie Key

All committee reports and news articles need to be turned in to me by December 20, for the January newsletter.

Contact your editor at:

**Jackie.Key@vfw4273.org**

**Attention Ladies!**

Membership pins will be given out for continuous years membership at our December 14, Auxiliary meeting. The following sisters are eligible:

5 yrs - Jean Bettencourt

Judith Gascon

Shari Jones

Tanya Klahn

Gulfiye Turner

Gay Wunische

10 yrs - Catherine Kubitz

Nona Layton

Loretta Rich

Juanita Tomczak

15 yrs - Carol Engblom

Bonnie Fox

Emma Peterson

Denise Tholen

20 yrs - Rose Schultz

Sharon Setterlund

Debbie Stone

Beverly Wence

Tammie Yoerger

25 yrs - Mary Bateman

Shirley Dunsmuir

Betty Haider

30 yrs - Karen Foster

**The Post Chaplain****Nick Roth**

Thank goodness no draping of our charter is needed this month. We do have some very challenged comrades and sisters in hospitals however.

Denny Bridges is still recuperating. He says his, "spirit is willing but his body won't". Our prayers go out to you Denny.

Gary Brandon is on the mend and seems in good spirits.

Let us all keep our comrades and sisters here and abroad in our prayers. We continue praying for our own Alexander Heller and those brave men and women of the Second Armored Cavalry Regiment now serving in Iraq. May the good lord see them all home safe and sound soon.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of 2LT Peter Burks.

**Christmas Party  
&  
December Birthday Celebration  
December 22, 2007, at 6 PM**

Gift exchange limit is \$10.00  
Potluck

**The Auxiliary Chaplain****Bonnie Hershberger**

Penny Edwards is at home recuperating from surgery on her foot.

Millie Lenz is doing fine after gall bladder surgery. Hang in there Millie, and Happy Birthday!!

Stay healthy and Happy Holidays

**Welcome  
Post 4273  
Men's Auxiliary**

They now have 25 members with full canteen rights and privileges. The Charter will be open for 90 days. Charter memberships are still being accepted. If you know of any man who might be interested in joining, please contact Bob Dunn or Larry Merritt. An organizational meeting, to elect officers, etc., will be held 8 December at 4:00 PM in the Post Hall. Be there!

Post Officers	2007-2008	Auxiliary Officers	
Commander	Bert Key	President	Lori Merritt
Senior Vice Commander	Chuck Lutz	Sr. Vice President	Kathy Dunn
Junior Vice Commander	Mike Horttor	Jr. Vice President	Helene Hawkins
Chaplain	Nick Roth	Treasurer	Jackie Key
Quartermaster	Ken Hershberger	Chaplain	Bonnie Hershberger
Adjutant	Allen Anderson	Secretary	Dora Fitzpatrick
Surgeon	Jim Mitchell	Editor	Jackie Key

**CANTEEN CORNER**

**Lori Merritt**

**From the Sandbox:**

It's been a while since I sent out an update to all of you. First off, I hope this email finds you all well and may many blessings be bestowed upon you and your family during this Thanksgiving Holiday. I hope you all get to enjoy the holidays with those you love.

I have a great group of soldiers and NCO's that get the job done day in and day out. You would be proud to see them in action!

We have accomplished numerous combat patrols, raids, security and escort missions as well as serving as the Squadron and Brigade Quick Reaction Force. I even got to do a clearing operation that required me to get on a rubber patrol boat with a wingman and clear a floating barge on the Tigris River. It was exhilarating and not something everybody can say they have done. Unfortunately, the operations here in Baghdad have already claimed the lives of 10 soldiers in the Regiment and over 20 wounded. Last week we lost 2Lt Peter Burks, who was the new platoon leader for our Mortar/FIST platoon. His vehicle was hit with a multi-array explosive device and he died of wounds within minutes of arriving at the combat hospital. His death was a great loss to our Troop, and a grim reminder that no matter what sector you are in, you are never completely safe. We will soldier on, and continue with our mission and honor his service and sacrifice. I ask that you keep his mother and father and his fiancé in your prayers.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and the Camp Prosperity Dining Facility will surely put on a magnificent feast. My platoon is lucky enough to be able to partake in the feast before we have to get back to work; the bad guys are always waiting. I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and hope it is a fruitful one for you and yours. I am very thankful to be able to serve my country and I am most thankful for my family, without whom I would only be half the man I am. Nickie and Austin are my joy in life, and I can't wait to be home to hold them once again. I am also thankful for my extended family and friends, and their continued support of our family and our soldiers. I hope that all of you are well, and I will drop a line again soon. Take care. Sergeant First Class Alex Heller

**There is always something going on at the Post so stop by and join in on the fun. See you at the Post!**

**Monday Night Football**

**Wednesday Night Dealers' Choice Poker**

**Thursday is movie night**

**Breakfast/BINGO's twice a month, check your calendar for dates and times. BINGO every Sunday opened to the public at 1:00 pm**

**Post/Auxiliary Birthday Party each month**

**In December we will also have a Potluck Christmas Party. There will be a \$10 limit gift exchange for those who wish to participate**

**Many Thanks to:**

- **Gene and Elaine Hourling and Jim Hooley for their generous donations to the Bake and Sew Ladies.**
- **Clyde Wentworth, Rich Spitzengel, and Jim Mitchell for helping cook the Breakfasts.**
- **Brenda Truesdale for preparing the Thanksgiving Day Meal.**
- **The Bake and Sew Ladies are a wonderful group of ladies. The Sewing Ladies send beautiful quilts to the Veterans Hospital every week. The Sewers are Dee Steffl, Jewell Lamb and Ruby Watts. The Bakers also send cookies to the Veterans hospital and overseas. They sent cookies to Iraq twice in November. They received a very touching letter of thanks from Alex Heller and also a great picture of them as they took their first bite of cookies from Sandy. The Bakers include Ruthie Jackson, Millie Lenz, Louis Leavitt, Mary Bateman, Helen Lamke, Jean Bettencourt, Voriece Blair and Kit Spitzengel. Thank you Ladies for all that you do to help raise the morale of our Veterans.**

**MANY THANKS**

I would like to thank Tim Wilson, Kris Engblom and Bert Key for building me a very nice wheel chair ramp at my home. It has helped me get in and out of my house more easily. Thank you, Penny Edwards

**Quotes of the month:**

**"Tis better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."**

**Abraham Lincoln**

**"What luck for rulers that men do not think."**

**Adolf Hitler**



**Happy Holidays  
to all and to all  
A good New Year!**



**THE BUCKBOARD BULLETIN**  
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