

Artist-AMVET: Roger McGee



Dedication 1996

# AMVETS

Jonathan M Wainwright

Post #1111

Walla Walla, Washington



Veterans Serving Veterans and our Community

## December 2006

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It was a dark and very cold night in December when Santa Claus came to Downtown Walla Walla to turn on the lights of the Community Christmas Tree at First & Main Streets, Land Title Plaza.

In recognition of the fact that we remain at war this Christmas, the **Downtown Walla Walla Foundation** dedicated the Community Christmas Tree as a memorial to soldiers lost in Iraq and their families. The Foundation has created individual ornaments recognizing each soldier from Washington State who has been killed in Iraq and identifying their local hometown. They plan to send a Christmas card to the soldier's loved ones with a photograph of the tree, letting them know that our community is thinking of them this season.

The tree was donated by **Klicker's Berries & Antiques** and placed next to the Downtown flagpole with Old Glory flying over head along with the POW/MIA flag. The 15' tree was transported to town by **Elsom Roofing Company** and **Voth Construction** furnished the carpenters to build the stand. Lot's of help was provided by **Land Title of Walla Walla** and **Darrah's Decorating center**.

**Bill and Maureen Vollendorf** created the beautiful yellow ribbons in recognition of the troops.

Our community is especially thinking about: soldier **Michael Anely** in Baghdad and his mother **Sharon Werst** here in Walla Walla, **JD Thornburg** serving a third term with the US Marines in Iraq and his parents **Ann and Jim** in Barbersville West Virginia; **Jon Zak, Jacob Radke, August Radke,** and **Bobby Radke, Jr** enlisted men from here in Walla Walla, veteran **Ronald Budau, Herbert S. Budau,** and **James Deford** and their families; soldier **Nicholas Mobley** from Walla Walla, **Andrew Rieder** from Tacoma and his family including **Angela and Drew Rieder** in Spokane and **Rob and Dianne Rieder** in Tacoma; and **Les Echtenkamp** from Walla Walla.

Thanks to **Jim Bock** (and his familiar booming voice) of Alexandria Communications, **Heidi and Maynard Hoffer** of Aries, and the staff at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, **Jennifer Northam, Wava Zielfeld,** and their new director, **Jill Dowling,** and many, many other volunteers for remembering the people who have put their lives on the line to protect our country and freedom loving people everywhere.

## The Commander's Corner

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Every year at this time we turn our thoughts to our accomplishments and our shortcomings. We start thinking about what we could have done differently. We think of our past resolutions in preparation for our new and improved resolution: this year I'm going to ..... lose fifty pounds, get back into shape, be a better father, or husband.

This coming year I challenge you to resolve to make a difference. This is not a big challenge. In fact many of you probably are already doing this on a daily basis. My job as a teacher at Paine Alternative High School allows me to daily touch the lives of students. Students who are, for reasons often beyond their control, struggling. We have many opportunities within our community to reach out and touch someone and make a difference.

If you don't have anything in mind, think about making a commitment, resolve to participate in one volunteer activity once this year. Go on a visit with Norm Graybeal, or Don Schack. Participate in posting the colors on Main and on Alder or retrieving the colors in the afternoon.

You may have other ideas on what the post can do to better to serve our veterans in the greater Walla Walla Area. If this is the case and you are willing to lead or assist in developing a program please let me know. We as an organization are only as strong and effective as you our membership want to be. As an organization we can all be proud of the reputation and the relationship we have with our community.

When I agreed to become the Commander of AMVETS Post 1111, I stated that I wanted to survey the Post's membership. The reason for this action was to determine the direction the membership wanted the Post to grow. This organization does not belong to the few but to the many. It is often difficult for many of you to get to meetings and I understand the problems and demands of trying to balance family life and work life. Sometimes we have to set priorities and going to another meeting after a day at work is one more thing that is just too much. Instead of confining you to a few choices, I chose to give you an open form with only three questions.

What makes you want to be a member of AMVETS?

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What can we as an organization do better?

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Would you be willing to help develop a new program based on your suggestion? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



Tim Bow, Post Commander

#### AMVETS POST #1111 NEWSLETTER

Published Monthly

For members and those who support

American Veterans

Officers of the Post

#### Commander

Timothy "Tim" Bow (509)526-0826

#### 1st Vice Commander

Stephen "Steve" Bird (541)938-4780

#### 2nd Vice Commander

Michael "Mike" Dettmer (541)938-6806

#### Finance Officer

Kenneth "Ken" Paplinski (509)526-5792

#### Adjutant

Robert "Bob" Chicken (509)522-5289

#### Provost Marshal

Douglas "Doug" Bayne (509)529-6255

#### Judge Advocate & Chaplain

Donald "Don" Schack (509)525-5723

#### Past Commander

Norman "Norm" Graybeal (509)522-0939

#### Newsletter Editor

James "Jim" Irwin (509)529-2411

Send articles to: jimirwin@charter.net

# We Salute These Walla Walla American Flag Sponsors for their Support and Patriotism — Please Support our Sponsors

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Touchet Grange  
VFW Grant Farmer Post #992  
Wild Rose Studio  
Walla Walla Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
Walla Walla Wagon Wheelers

**A Different Christmas Poem**

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
 I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
 My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
 My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.  
 Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
 Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
 The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
 Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.  
 My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
 Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
 In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
 So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.  
 The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
 But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
 Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the  
 sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.  
 My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
 And I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
 Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
 A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.  
 A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,  
 Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
 Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
 Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.  
 "What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
 "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
 Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
 You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"  
 For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
 Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..  
 To the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
 Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,  
 I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."  
 "It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
 That separates you from the darkest of times.  
 No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
 I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me .  
 My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"  
 Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas '  
 Gram always remembers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',  
 And now it is my turn and so, here I am.  
 I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
 But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.  
 Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
 The red, white, and blue... an American flag.  
 I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
 Away from my family, my house and my home.  
 I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
 I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
 I can carry the weight of killing another,  
 Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..  
 Who stand at the front against any and all,  
 To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."  
 "So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,  
 Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."  
 "But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
 "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?  
 It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
 For being away from your wife and your son."  
 Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
 "Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
 To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,  
 To stand your own watch, no matter how long.  
 For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
 To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
 Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
 That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

PLEASE, would you do me the kind favor of sending  
 this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be  
 coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S  
 service men and women for our being able to celebrate  
 these festivities. Lets try in this small way to pay a tiny  
 bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our  
 heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.  
 LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN  
 30th Naval Construction Regiment  
 OIC, Logistics Cell One, Al Taqqadum, Iraq

Submitted by Marahall & Audrey Sturdevant of Dayton WA

# **Annual Christmas Dinner**

**Elmer's Restaurant  
1425 West Pine St  
Walla Walla Washington  
December 20, 2006 6:00 pm**

## **Program**

**Welcome Post Commander  
Pledge of Allegiance - Post Chaplain  
Introduction of Guests - Post Commander  
Attendee Introductions - Attendees  
Invocation - Post Chaplain**

**Buffet Dinner  
Turkey & Prime Rib  
\$17.00 per person**

## **Special Recognition - Post Commander**

**Announcements  
Noteworthy News  
Coming Events  
Door Prizes**

## **Special Thanks**

**To Elmer's Restaurant and Staff for their consideration and support of  
this special event**

**Please RSVP Bob Glicker at 522- 5289  
Send check for \$17.00 per person To:  
AMVETS Jonathan M. Wainwright Post 1111  
PO Box 2535  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362**

Six Month Period: Ending Dec. 2006

District: District VI  
Department: Washington

Post #: 1111

**Post 1111 Activities Report to National**

Submitted by Steve Bird, 1st Vice Commander

Program Category	Comments	Volunteers	Hours	Value @ \$18.04 per hour	Donations	Total Value of Program
Americanism	Downtown Flags Labor Day	12	12	\$216.48	\$0.00	\$216.48
Americanism	Downtown Flags Patriot Day	15	15	\$270.60	\$0.00	\$270.60
Americanism	Downtown flags Columbus Day	10	10	\$180.40	\$0.00	\$180.40
Americanism	Downtown flags POW Recognition Day	13	13	\$234.52	\$0.00	\$234.52
* Other (Com. Ser. - Be specific)	Scholarship WWCC winter QTR	0	0	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Americanism	downtown flags Independence day	20	20	\$360.80	\$0.00	\$360.80
Hospitalized Veterans	Odd fellows Home	2	6	\$108.24	\$0.00	\$108.24
Americanism	DOwntown flags 11-11-06	50	50	\$902.00	\$0.00	\$902.00
Americanism	Downtown flags 11-24-06	10	10	\$180.40	\$0.00	\$180.40
Support for National Guard Troops	Support Family Assistance	0	0	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Americanism	Downtown Parade of Lights	6	3	\$54.12	\$0.00	\$54.12
		138	139	\$2,507.56	\$500.00	\$3,007.56

Five AMVETS of Post 1111, bundled up to decorate the flag trailer and participate in the Macy's Downtown Parade of Lights on Saturday December 2nd.

**Arnil Hoffarth**  
**Don Schack**  
**Tim Bow**  
**Bob Chicken**  
**Norman Graybeal**



# December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 <u>Flags</u> Pearl Harbor	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 AMVETS Meeting	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <u>Flags</u> MLK Day	16	17 AMVETS Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## AMERICAN VETERANS

A leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's Armed Forces, AMVETS provides, not only support for veterans and the active military in procuring their earned entitlements, but also community services that enhance the quality of life for this nation's citizens

### AMVETS OF WALLA WALLA Post # 1111

Current Membership 96

Annual Members 43 / Life 53

Annual Dues: \$25.00 per year / Life Member: \$150.00  
To be eligible for membership, you must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, anytime after Sept. 15, 1940.

Additionally, unless still serving, your discharge must have been under honorable conditions. If you served as an American citizen in the armed forces of an allied nation, under honorable conditions, between Sept. 15, 1940 and May 8, 1975, you are also eligible, as are wartime members of the Merchant Marine. Proof of eligibility can take the form of a DD-214, an honorable discharge certificate or other appropriate document.

## December Meeting

12/20/2006

6:00 PM Christmas Dinner

ELMER'S RESTAURANT

1425 WEST PINE ST

WALLA WALLA WA

Please RSVP

Bob Chicken at 522- 5289

(Please call after 10:00 AM)

By December 15th

### WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL MONUMENT

An AMVETS Post #1111 project

Located at the

Jonathan M Wainwright Memorial

Veteran Affairs Medical Center

Walla Walla, Washington

456

installed bronze plaques to date

call Jim Irwin at 529-2411 for an order form

**A Lasting Tribute to Members of the Armed Services**

### DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA FLAGS

An AMVETS Post #1111 project

We are now starting our 6th year of providing the downtown with holiday flags. The response by the community to our flag project has been great.

**Please support OUR Sponsors**

See our list of sponsors on page 3.

Flags will fly on the following upcoming holidays.

**Pearl Harbor Day Dec. 7th**

**M.L.K. Day Jan. 15th**

AMVETS Post #1111  
Jonathan M Wainwright  
PO Box 2535

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