

Artist-AMVET: Roger McGee



Statue Dedication 1996
Walla Walla WA

AMVETS

Jonathan M. Wainwright
Post # Eleven-Eleven
Walla Walla, Washington
Chartered in the year 2000



Veterans Serving Veterans and our Community

2000 - 2010

January 2010

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Jonathan M. Wainwright Post # 1111 will become 10 years old on May 2, 2010. The post was named in honor of Jonathan Wainwright; born at Fort Walla Walla in 1883.

Charter members:

Larry Adams, Terry Atchison, Doug Bayne, Gene Braden, Wilfred Billey, James Bogart, Bob Chicken, Jay Draper, Clark Erdman, John Erdman, Walt Gary, Norm Graybeal, Roger Gregg, Mel Harnett, Sean Harnett, Lee Henson, Arnil Hoffarth, Jim Irwin, Buzz Logan, Les Logsdon, Robert Marr, Roger McGee, Bruce Murr, Jack Preston, Tom Roe, Harold Stockwell, John Wertenberger, Walter Williams, William Wilson.

Japanese Surrender

General MacArthur used six pens to sign the document.

The first pen was presented to Jonathan Wainwright. you can see it here in his right hand. He was still very thin from his 3 1/2 years in captivity.



You can see the actual newsreel of the surrender, aboard the USS Missouri, by clicking on this site.

<http://enka2.netorage.com:9711/harddisk/user/lyk36/mumess/376-macarthurjap.htm>



Commander

Welcome to a new year and the opportunities it brings for the Post to continue providing support to our local veterans and the community.

When I look back over the past year and the activities of the Post and its members I am proud to be an AMVET in Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial Post Eleven-Eleven. Through your participation in Post and community activities and programs we have made a difference and it mattered! Your efforts to ensure display of Old Glory through the downtown flag program mattered! Sponsorship of the Air Force Band of The Golden West mattered! Our support of the VAVS program at the local VA mattered! Our support of the Walla Walla Community College Scholarship program for veterans seeking to improve their education mattered! Providing opportunities for community service to local Boy Scouts mattered! Your support and participation in Parades and other community activities mattered! The recognition of our efforts by Department and National AMVETS mattered! In our community what we have done this last year matters and you are recognized as true leaders in fulfilling the motto Veterans Serving Veterans and Our Community. You have made and this next year will continue to make a difference and it matters! Thank You **Steve Bird, Commander**

AMVETS POST #1111 NEWSLETTER
Published monthly for members
and those who support
American Veterans.
Officers of the Post

Commander

Steve Bird 938-4780

1st Vice Commander

Larry Cunnington 525-1964

2nd Vice Commander

Norm Graybeal 522-0939

Finance Officer

Arnil Hoffarth 522-2175

Provost Marshall

Bob Radke 301-4861

Judge Advocate

Jim Harting 382-4874

Chaplain

Don Schack 525-5723

Newsletter Editor

Jim Irwin 529-2411

1st Vice Commander

With the coming of 2010 comes a New Year of service for AMVETS Post 1111. A time for fellowship and service to our Veterans and Community. As we all know the cost of Life membership has gone up and will continue to go up for the next couple of years. So now is the time to convert your annual dues to Lifetime membership. This will be a large savings to you in the years to come. Hope to see all of you at our next Post meeting, and have a very good New Year. **Larry Cunnington 1st Vice**



2nd Vice Commander



Here's to all members and best wishes for an enjoyable and successful 2010. For those who missed the Christmas Dinner, we had a great time and dinner. The thirty-three members present also enjoyed the presentation by Gregg Heller, Scout Troop 305, about his trip to Valley Forge, PA. Greg was the State winner in the AMVETS Essay Contest. Ms Ryan Campeau, the WAHI Washington Scholar for School Year 2008-2009, was also present and provided perspective on life at Whitman College. It is great to know that we do have such talented and outstanding youth with us today. The National Programs Report submitted the end of December included 83 volunteers, 90 hours of service, and 352 miles driven and total donations of over \$900.00. The complete report will be provided at the January Post Meeting.

Your suggestions for future programs or events will be greatly appreciated. Just give a call and we'll see what can be done. Again, "Happy New Year" and best of everything to everyone! **Norm Graybeal, 2nd VC (522-0939)**

Faces

This picture of one our post's Charter Members, Wilfred Billey, was found on the internet, talking to Senator John McCain in 2007. It seemed appropriate to re-run this article from our newsletter in 2002. We have not heard from Wilfred for some time but we assume he is still going strong.

Wilfred E Billey - WWII Veteran - Code Talker

In 1942 the Imperial Japanese Forces in the pacific had broken all codes used by the Allied Pacific Command. Then came the Navajo Code Talkers that baffled the Japanese with their strange messages. The unique languages of the Navajo Nation provided a secure communication link during the island fighting of WWII.



The Marine Corps recruited 200 Navajos from their high schools. One of those recruited was Wilfred Billey, who served as a radioman from 1943 until his discharge in 1946. He was with the 2nd Marine Division during the battles of Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa.

Wilfred was born and raised on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. When he was six years old, his grandfather enrolled him in a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school where he learned to speak English. He then attended public school until the 8th grade and attended the Navajo Methodist Mission High School in Farmington, New Mexico where he was recruited by the Marine Corps.

After the war, Wilfred returned to the Navajo Reservation, then in June 1946 he enrolled at Wheaton College in Illinois to complete his high school requirements and begin college. He received his bachelors and masters degrees at New Mexico Highlands University and continued taking college courses at other colleges in New Mexico and the University of Wyoming.

Wilfred was now known as Mr. Billey and he spent the next 40 years as a teacher, a high school counselor, and a high school principal. He continued working with schools until his retirement in 1990.

He is an active member of the Navajo Code Talkers Association and while on tour in Walla Walla he was recruited as a member of AMVETS Post #1111 and has since become a Life Member. We are very proud to count him as one of ours. He is also a member of the Marine Corps League and the American Legion.

A movie about the Code Talkers "Windtalkers" is being released on Flag Day, June 14th 2002.

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

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Flags will fly on the following Holidays

January 18th—Martin Luther King Jr, Day
 February 15th—President's Day

4 Star General Wainwright

American Legion Post 32
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DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA FLAGS

We are now in our 8th year of providing the Downtown American flags on holidays.

I Star Brigadier General

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 City of Walla Walla
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 are shown in red**

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AMERICAN VETERANS—AMVETS

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 www.amvets.org amvets@amvets.org 1-877-7AMVETS

Christmas Party 2009



January 2010

- 1 New Years Day**
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. (Downtown Flags)**
- 20 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 25 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

February 2010

- 8 Boy Scouts of America (1910)**
- 14 Valentines Day**
- 14 –20 Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week**
- 15 Presidents Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 17 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 22 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

March 2010

- 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- 17 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 20 Spring begins**
- 22 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

April 2010

- 1 AMVETS “Because We Care Day” VAMCs**
- 4 Easter Sunday**
- 21 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 26 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

May 2010

- 15 Armed Forces Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 19 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 22 US Merchant Marine (1933)**
- 24 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**
- 31 Memorial Day (Downtown Flags)**

June 2010

- 14 US Army (1775)**
- 14 Flag Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 23 AMVETS meeting—**
- 21 Summer begins**
- 28 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

July 2010

- 2 US Army Air Corps (1926)**
- 4 Independence Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 21 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 26 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

August 2010

- 4 US Coast Guard (1790)**
- 18 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 23 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

September 2010

- 4 WW Fair & Frontier Days (Downtown Flags)**
- 6 Labor Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 11 Patriot Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 15 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 17 POW/MIA (Downtown Flags)**
- 18 US Air Force (1947)**
- 27 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

October 2010

- 11 Columbus Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 13 U.S. Navy (1775)**
- 20 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 25 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

November 2010

- 10 U.S. Marine Corps (1775)**
- 11 Veteran’s Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 17 AMVETS meeting—Pot luck dinner 6 pm**
- 22 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**
- 25 Thanksgiving (Downtown Flags)**

December 2010

- 4 Macy’s Parade of Lights Downtown Walla Walla**
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day (Downtown Flags)**
- 10 AMVETS of WWII founded 1944**
- 25 Christmas**
- 28 Post Exec. Comm. Meeting 6 pm**

Membership Meeting**January 20 2010**

6:00 pm potluck Dinner
Golden West Estates Community room
1425 Jasper St
Walla Walla WA

Downtown Flags Schedule**January****18th—Martin Luther King Jr Day****February****15th—Presidents Day**

**Post #1111 Current Membership 100
Annual Members 27 / Life 73**

Annual Dues: \$34.00 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.

AMVETS Post #1111
PO Box 2535
Walla Walla WA 99362

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Ken Silver of College place
has been added to our life Membership roster.

The Downtown Walla Walla Flag Pole at Land Title Plaza, is 70' tall and flies a 15'X25' flag. The flag is replaced each year on the Fourth of July but needs repairs and cleaning at least twice during the year. All American flags of any size should be repaired and cleaned as needed and should be replaced when beyond repair.
For more information email: info@amvets-wallawalla.org

