

DIST 1 CMDR: TERRY D. STINSON | COMMANDER@VFWDISTRICT1.ORG



### Commander's Corner:

In 2018 I chose to attend my first Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting. I was recently retired from Active Duty after 21 years of service and was missing a connection with "my crew." There was a local VFW Post that continually popped up in my Facebook feed and they seemed to do all the things I wanted to do. Specifically, this Post was in the community, helping others, giving back, and they appeared to be having fun while doing it. I attended a meeting. It was EXACTLY the meeting I needed to attend. Here was this group of extremely diverse Veterans giving updates on community service, voting to spend money on multiple veteran related programs, and then following it all up with, "what can we do next?" I was hooked. To add even more to this positive experience, multiple Post members came up to me before and after the meeting just to introduce themselves and welcome me. No ego involved. Days after the meeting I had several members reach out to me just to "check in." Again, exactly what I needed.

The reason I bring this up is while I know recruiting is important, I believe it's even more important to create a connection with our members. It's our responsibility as leaders to engage with our members and hopefully keep them active in our Post for years to come. This concept isn't new. It's not groundbreaking. However, it is challenging. I challenge each and everyone of you to shake hands with the new person at your next Post or Auxiliary meeting. Again, it's nothing new, but our Moms tried to teach us manners and kindness for a reason.

*Yours in Service,  
Terry D. Stinson  
U.S Coast Guard*

### Obelisk Honoring 80 Veterans Returns to Permanent Home



Snohomish, WA - The Snohomish Community Memorial was unveiled at a Memorial Day ceremony held on May 29, 2023, at the new Snohomish Carnegie Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Snohomish. The memorial, in the shape of an obelisk, had been moved from its home to the G.A.R. Cemetery, just outside of town, while the historic building was restored. This obelisk honors about 80 veterans from Snohomish and the surrounding area who died fighting in conflicts dating from World War I through Vietnam and to Iraq. The original 1961 dedication pamphlet provides us words that ring true to this day, "In memory of those who gave their lives that we might live." Senator Lovick and Mayor Redmon led remarks alongside leaders from Veteran Service Organizations in town. The Snohomish High School Marine Corps JROTC provided the color guard and shadow taps were played. Additional site elements are planned for a future date.

### Upcoming Events:

- July 12-16** -Klahaya Days (Snohomish)
- July 15** - Randy Couture XCGIF Poker Run
- July 23** - Gold Dust Days (Gold Bar)
- July 22-27** -VFW National Convention
- August 1** - National Night Out Against Crime
- Aug 4-6** - Stanwood-Camano Fair
- Aug 5** - VFW Dept. of WA School of Instruction
- August 19** - VFW Post 2554 Vets in the Valley BBQ
- Aug 26** - Monroe Fair Days Parade
- Aug 24** - Sep 4 - Evergreen State Fair
- Sep 8-10** - Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival
- Sep 9** - District 1 School of Instruction
- Sep 9** - District 1 Aquasox Game
- Sep 11** - Patriot's Day
- Sep 23** - VFW 7511 Flags for Our Fallen Golf Tournament

If one finds themselves ever in the area, pass by 105 Cedar Avenue in downtown Snohomish to pay your respects to our honored war dead and then swing by our American Legion Post 96 near Avenue D on First Street.

*Story by Tom Kreinbring  
VFW Post 921*



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

District 1, Washington

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## District 1 Posts & Comrades Take Top Honors at Department of WA Convention



Spokane, WA – From June 15 to June 17, 2023, the Department of Washington 103rd State Convention was held in Spokane, Washington. During the Convention, District 1 Posts and Comrades received awards for their outstanding efforts during the 2022-2023 Veterans of Foreign Wars year. In addition to awards, Comrade Drew James was elected and installed as the Department of Washington Junior Vice Commander. The following is a list of personal and Post awards received by our District.



**VFW Lifetime Achievement Award** - Donald Wischmann  
**Veteran of the Year** - Terry D. Stinson

### 100% Membership

- VFW Post 921
- VFW Post 1040
- VFW Post 2100
- VFW Post 2554
- VFW Post 7511
- VFW Post 8870
- VFW Post 9417

### All State

- VFW Post 921
- VFW Post 1040
- VFW Post 2100
- VFW Post 2554
- VFW Post 7511
- VFW Post 8870
- VFW Post 9417



In addition to the outstanding efforts from all of our Posts, VFW Post 2554, Sultan, Washington was recognized as the 2022-2023 Most Improved Rural Post! Department Commander Paul Herrera expressed his appreciation for the tenacity and hard work of Post Commander Ann Marie Bunch for her tireless efforts of serving the veterans of Sultan. Commander Herrera pointed out it's not necessarily easy to further our mission when much of the needed resources are so far away from where they are required. VFW Post 2554 continues to serve veterans and their community with distinction.



Congratulations to all of our District 1 Posts.



Photos by Rich Angeli  
VFW Post 1948



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## Meet Your District 1 Service Officer



Snohomish, WA – Comrade Barbara Hoerr (pronounced “Hair”) was selected in May 2023, as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) District 1, Department of Washington Service Officer by newly installed District Commander Terry D. Stinson.

Comrade Hoerr is a 12-year U.S. Army Veteran. During her time in the Army, Comrade Hoerr served with distinction as a Combat Medic and Licensed Practical Nurse with a secondary specialty of the Army Maintenance Management System/Prescribed Load List.

Comrade Hoerr prides herself in supporting and serving the veteran community. Barb currently serves in numerous capacities within the VFW and American Legion. In addition to serving as your District 1 Service Officer, Comrade Hoerr serves as the Service Officer for the Gay Jones VFW Post 921 Snohomish, American Legion District 2 Service Officer, and Director, American Legion Riders Post 96 in Snohomish, Washington.

In her free time, Comrade Hoerr loves to read and ride the roads of the Pacific Northwest on her 2020 Harley Davidson Tri-Glide.

Comrade Hoerr can be reached via email at [barbhoerr.vso@gmail.com](mailto:barbhoerr.vso@gmail.com). Keep in mind like many of us, Comrade Hoerr works full-time and may not be able to get back to you until after 4PM.

Comrade Hoerr is excited to serve you in her new capacity as District 1 Service Officer.

## VFW Post 2554 & Post 9417 to Host Their 2nd Annual Summer Picnic in the Valley

Sultan, WA - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2554 Sultan and VFW Post 9417 are gearing up for their second annual Summer Picnic in the Valley. This year's picnic will once again be hosted at Ed's Apples, which is located at 13420 339th Ave SE, Sultan, Washington 98294 (behind McDonald's at the roundabout).

The picnic is scheduled for August 19, 2023, beginning at Noon. There is no entry fee and the picnic is open to ALL Veterans, Auxiliary, family, and friends of the Sky Valley Posts.

Last year's event hosted approximately 80 individuals from Sky Valley to Everett. This year's event is sure to be an even larger success.

As VFW Posts 2554 and 9417 prepares for this event, they are looking for donations and sponsors to help offset the cost of the event. If your business, Post, or Auxiliary would like to donate to the event, please contact Post 2554 Post Commander Ann Marie Bunch at [Scrambu217@gmail.com](mailto:Scrambu217@gmail.com).

**VFW**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

District 1, Washington

## From the District 1 Auxiliary President



The 2023-24 year is off! I want to take a minute to say Thank You again for a great 22-23 year and having the confidence in me to be District President again. We will have a District School of Instruction on September 9th. I will be handing out all of the information that will be handed out at the Department School of Instruction.

For the 22-23 year here is the list of awards that the auxiliaries in our District took home:

- Americanism** Division 1 - 2nd Place 7511
- Veterans and Family Support** Division 1- 3rd Place 1040, 2nd Place 9417, and Div. 4 3rd Place 2100
- Every Auxiliary in the District received a Good Job award.**
- Legislative** Division 1- 2nd Place 1040
- Membership** Division 1- 3rd Place 7511
- Youth Activities** Division 1 – 3rd Place 1040, 2nd Place 9417, 1st Place 2554.
- 7511 also won **1st place Art 3rd -5th Grade 1st Place and 1st place in the Sing program.**
- Patriotic Art program 8870 tied for 2nd Place.**
- Community Outreach** Division 1- 3rd Place 1040.

We did so well this past year I can't wait to see what we do this coming year.

Again, thank you for all the hard work you all do I know how much time it takes for these programs.

Like last year I will be forwarding emails from the Department and others this year I will include the secretaries with the correspondence. If you would rather have it sent another way, please let me know.

Thank you,  
Tami Wagoner  
President  
VFW District 1 Auxiliary

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

## Gold Star Families Wreath Laying Event in Lynnwood, WA



Lynnwood, WA – On Saturday July 1, 2023, Post and Auxiliary members from Veterans of Foreign Wars District 1, Department of Washington attended a wreath laying event at the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Lynnwood, Washington.

This wreath laying was organized by Flags of Honor Escorts, the Woody Williams Foundation, and Project Roll Call. The keynote speaker was VFW Post 8870 member Michael Reagan. Monica McNeal spoke on behalf of the Washington State Gold Star Families.

In attendance were members from VFW Post 921 Snohomish, VFW Post 1040 Lynnwood, Ward Roney Jr. VFW Post 7511 Monroe, VFW Post 8870 - Edmonds, and VFW Riders 2669 Port Orchard.



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## VFW Posts 2554, 7511, and 9417 Come Together for the Sultan Shindig Parade



Sultan, WA - On July 8, 2023, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) District 1 Post and Auxiliary members from VFW Post 2554 Sultan, VFW Post 9417 Gold Bar, VFW Post 7511 Monroe, VFW Auxiliary 7511 Monroe, and VFW Auxiliary 2554 Sultan joined together for the Sultan Shindig parade. VFW Post 7511 provided the color guard for the event. The Color Guard consisted of the Department of Washington Jr. Vice Commander, District 1 Officer of the Day, 7511 Auxiliary President, Post Quartermaster, and 7511 Post Member. District 1 Chaplain Ricky Andrew drove 7511's World War II era Jeep (the "Phoenix") with a special passenger. A 96 year young, Korean War veteran and a Gold Bar local rode in the parade with Chaplain Andrew. Sultan Post Commander Ann Marie Bunch and Past Sultan Auxiliary President Ryann Bunch drove in a stunning red Corvette. District 1 Commander, Terry D. Stinson and passenger Chuck Donaldson a member of VFW Post 2554 brought up the rear in a 1966 Ford pickup. Members of the Gold Bar Post and Sultan Post walked behind the Phoenix and waved at the small town USA crowd. It was a fantastic morning for the Sky Valley VFW Posts.

## District 1 Recruiting Event at the Evergreen State Fair



Monroe, WA - For a second year in a row, VFW District 1, Department of Washington will be holding a Recruiting Drive at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, WA. Beginning On August 24, and running until September 4, 2023, District 1 Post members will have the opportunity to recruit Comrades at the fair. There are four available slots each day. There is a 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM shift, a 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM shift, a 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM shift to help cover the busy part of the day, and then a "Float" shift where someone can help cover the busy times and still be flexible in their ability to sign up. Each Post should plan on having members participate. Last year's recruiting event was a big success for the Posts in District 1. This year should be no different. For questions, please reach out to Doug White at [dwhite3511@msn.com](mailto:dwhite3511@msn.com) or the District Commander. Do not wait to sign up. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094BACAA29A2F58-evergreen>





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# District 1

## Department of Washington

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### July '22 - June '23 Year in Review

- ☑ District 1, Department of Washington is the 1st Purple Heart VFW District in the State of Washington
- ☑ Helped every City in Snohomish County become Purple Heart Cities & County. This is a first in the Nation
- ☑ Regularly recognize Snohomish County area EMTs, Firefighters, Police Officers, Sheriffs Deputies, and Dispatchers
- ☑ Nominated and recognized both the WA State Elementary and Middle School Teachers of the Year for '22-'23
- ☑ Helped dedicate local Veteran's and Gold Star Families Memorials
- ☑ Department of Washington Veteran of the Year & Grand of WA Seam Squirrel of the year chosen from District 1
- 🪲 We've got Cooties! Pup Tent 8, the "Crazy Eights" was stood up in District 1
- ☑ Currently has 8 Posts and is working to bring a 9th Post online in Stanwood, WA

[www.VFWDistrict1.org](http://www.VFWDistrict1.org)

 <https://facebook.com/wavfwdist1/>

 <https://instagram.com/vfwdistrict1/>

# VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

District 1, Washington

### 16,270 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Hospital visits, youth programs, cemetery cleanup, building wheelchair ramps, patriotic programs, recognizing first responders, and helping veterans

### \$172,906 DONATED OR SPENT:

Donated to Gold Star Mothers of Washington, the National Home for Children, veteran programs, directly to Gold Star families, for memorial services, college scholarship, community programs, and to local veterans in need

### 58,222 MILES TRAVELED:

Traveled by land and air to community service events, memorial/funeral services, and to assist other veterans

- 2,711 VETERANS ASSISTED
- 1,075+ BUDDY CHECKS CONDUCTED
- 38 HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME - VISITS/HOSPICE/HOME CARE
- 44 FUNERALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES
- 108 SYMPATHY, BIRTHDAY, AND THANK YOU CARDS SENT

### ADDITIONALLY:

- Conducted community events such a 5Ks, golf tournaments, memorial dedications
- Participated in National Night Out events
- Supported other local organizations
- Participated in Wreaths Across America
- Reestablished the District Newsletter
- Recognized as an All-American District

★ ★ ★ 2ND ANNUAL ★ ★ ★

**SULTAN/GOLD BAR  
VFW & AUXILIARY**

**SUMMER PICNIC IN THE VALLEY**

# BBQ



**SPONSORS & DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

**BURGERS, HOT DOGS, SIDES PROVIDED**

ED'S APPLES - 13420 339TH AVE SE SULTAN, WA 98294  
(BEHIND MCDONALDS @ ROUNDABOUT)

**Open to ALL Veterans, Auxiliary,  
Family & Friends**

.....☆☆☆.....  
*Ward Roney Jr. VFW Post 7511*

# FLAGS FOR OUR FALLEN

## *Golf Tournament*

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**Sept. 23, 2023**

**8:00 AM Shotgun Start**

Cutoff date is Sept. 16

**\$660 for a team of four  
(\$165 for singles & \$330  
for pairs.)**

**18 holes, shared cart, a  
bucket of range balls,  
continental breakfast, and  
fajita lunch!**

**All proceeds benefit the  
local VFW!**

.....

Hole in One

**\$10,000**

Prize

**Sign up @ [www.GolfVFW.com](http://www.GolfVFW.com)**

**Echo Falls Golf Club  
20414 121st Ave SE, Snohomish, WA**