



# AMVETS Newsletter

## Post 1 Tacoma

January 2024

[www.amvetswa.org/post1](http://www.amvetswa.org/post1)

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Veterans Helping Veterans

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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Happy New Year! Let's have a great New Year to all our AMVETS Veterans. Come to AMVETS and enjoy your friends and family. Hope to see you soon.

We are having a Silent Auction called "Gloria's Kitchen" to repair our stove that needs major fixing. If you have any items you want to donate, the tables will be up in the hallway for your convenience, starting on Jan. 5th and closed on Feb. 2nd at 7PM. I am hoping to see you there. Let's have some fun in Chappie's Lounge.

Just remember we have game night in our Chappie's Lounge every Wednesday. It is a very great time. Hope to see you there.

Thank you for your very generous contribution to our volunteers, donations and just all your support and friendship. Your contribution help support the **AMVETS Alvah R. Dravis**

Post 1 and the home of **Chappie's Lounge**—a military-friendly activities and entertainment gathering place for our Veterans, their families and guests.

**I greatly value your kindness—putting others before yourself and making this world a better place.**

**Veterans Helping Veterans  
Community Helping Veterans  
AMVETS Post 1**

Come and join us for the next **Post** meeting on **Thurs. Jan. 25th at 6PM.**

**Brenda Martin, Commander**

Phone: (253) 677-5727

Email: [amvetswapost1@gmail.com](mailto:amvetswapost1@gmail.com)

### OFFICER'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters at AMVETS. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped push forward our goals through the latter part of 2023. Our Wednesday openings have been a big success, with many Veterans and friends showing up to spend time at Post 1. Also, our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners are attracting more veterans every time we do this, and it's great to see Chappies full. We are into a brand New Year, and all of my resolutions relate to making Post 1 a better place.

**Mike Hardy, 1st Vice**

Email: [membership@amvetswapost1.org](mailto:membership@amvetswapost1.org)

Welcome to the new year 2024. I hope this year goes well. I would like to thank you for your continued support. We had a good year in 2023. Lots of changes to the way we do things. We now have to try and find a better way to improve the way we now have to do things.

Keep up with the way you are doing your jobs. Again, thank you for your support.

**Richard A. Holcomb, 2nd Vice**

Email: [programs@amvetswapost1.org](mailto:programs@amvetswapost1.org)

Happy New Year Post 1! Thank you to all who donated and attended the Kids Holiday party. We had 87 people attend and a lot of very excited children who went home with some awesome gifts and memories to last a lifetime.

A special thank you to Rusty Walters for arranging the visit from Santa.

In the new year please look out for events coming.

**Rachel Murphy, 3rd Vice**

Email: [rachel.muprhy141@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.muprhy141@gmail.com)

### AMVETS SERVICE OFFICE

**Hours:**

The Service Office is temporarily closed.

If you need immediate service, please contact the VA at (800) 698-2411.

**Vacant, State Service Director**

#### New Phone Numbers

(253) 472-2552.....Main

(253) 677-5727.....Commanders

(253) 472-0560.....Chappie's Lounge

## ADJUTANT

When you receive a letter from the Adjutant requesting proof of member eligibility, please show your copy of your **DD214 or alternate documentation**. Drop it by, mail it to the Post or email a scanned document (see below). Can't find your DD214 or other Proof of Service? The Service Office can help you.

Please contact me if a Post member passes away.

*Planning a move or a switch in email service?* Let us know so you can continue receiving your newsletter.

**RENT THE HALL**—Want to rent our hall for a wedding, birthday party, graduation, or other events? Please contact our Adjutant between Tues-Fri, 9-4PM. Prices: Small Hall \$500; Medium Hall \$1,000; and Large Hall \$1,500.

### Glenn Skinner, Adjutant

Phone: (253) 472-2552

Email: [Adjutant@amvetswapost1.org](mailto:Adjutant@amvetswapost1.org)

## CHAPPIES RESTAURANT/LOUNGE

### Lounge Hours:

**Wed** 3-10PM

**Thurs** 3-10PM

**Fri** 3-12AM

**Sat** 3-12AM

**Sun** 3-10PM



### Daily activities:

**Wed:** Texas Hold'Em, LCR, Camel races, Bunko & Yahtzee

**Thurs:** Bar Stool Bingo

**Fri:** Meat/Bottle Raffle and 50/50 Raffle

**Sat:** Horse Races & Karaoke

**Sun:** Texas Hold'Em and the Gate Keepers playing at the Jam Session

Phone: (253) 472-0560

## AMVETS RIDERS

Our next meeting will be **Sat., Jan. 13th at 10AM** in Chappie's Lounge.

Hopefully everyone had great holidays.

The Rider's raffle will be **Fri. Jan. 12th at 5:30** in Chappie's Lounge.

### Eric Davis (Sugarfoot), President

#### AMVETS Riders, Chapter One

Email: [fishn4samn@comcast.net](mailto:fishn4samn@comcast.net)

## SONS of AMVETS

Our next meeting is on **Tues., Jan. 2nd @ 7PM** in Chappie's Lounge.

Welcome to new members Mark Key and Tony Piggott!

Remember if you have not renewed your membership for 2024 you will need to be signed in by a member to enter Chappies Lounge.

### Tom Arter, Adjutant

#### Sons of AMVETS Squad 1

Email: [arter57@yahoo.com](mailto:arter57@yahoo.com)

## AUXILIARY

**BREAKING NEWS!** It's confirmed! **Randy Litch** to entertain in Chappie's Lounge, Jan. 5th 8-11PM—A New Year's gift from the Ladies Auxiliary.

### BIG THANK YOU'S GO TO:

- Marlene G., Barbara B. & Debbie G. for Chappie's live bands & entertainers October-December 2023
- Auxiliary "movers & shakers" Barbara S., Peggy, Theresa M., & Gloria for your multiple efforts in the Post's clean up
- James Trabert & Roberta Walker for providing 36 ham dinner food "baskets" delivered to the American Lake VA-HUD Supportive Housing (VASH).
- AMVETS members for contributing additional non-perishables.
- Gloria, Sheri S., Pamela & Barbara S. for packaging & delivering these holiday meals to Veterans Families In-Need
- Sheree D., Peggy, Patti K., Janine, Patti M., Dani, Bonnie K. & Mary Jo for your contributions with our Child Welfare and community projects.
- Pamela Draper for your "Santa for Seniors" contributions to AMVETS & American Lake Veterans
- Barbara B., Darelyn, Patti M., Brenda, Keiko & AMVETS donors for your contributions to the Post Commander's December Silent Auction
- Tracy, Barbara B., Marlene, Patti K., Stacey & Maxine for your mutual aid with the Riders' December meat raffle.

Effective Jan. 1st: Auxiliary members may REJOIN (*not "renew"*) by providing their proof of AMVETS eligibility documents with their applications & dues. AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 2024 annual dues @ \$35/year or life membership dues @ \$300.

The VA Transitional Housing 22 residents are always in need of bus passes, Safeway gift cards, kitchen supplies (i.e., dish soap, tall trash bags, sponges & scrubbing pads) and bathroom supplies (i.e., Clorox wipes, bathroom cleaner, toilet paper). Please deliver your donations to the American Lake VAVS office or drop them off at the Post.

### WISH LIST

- Volunteer Experienced with SAGE 50 Accounting Software
- Volunteer Computer Techs to update and network our computers and software
- Volunteer bakers or donated baked goods needed for Auxiliary fundraisers
- Commercially packaged diapers & new or gently used baby clothes

### Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 4th—Auxiliary Child Welfare Bake Sale, 6-8PM
- Jan. 5th Auxiliary sponsored bottle/meat raffle (live music)
- **Jan. 11th—Auxiliary Business Meeting @ 6:30PM in person**

### Barbara Skinner, President

Cell Phone: (253) 678-1256

Email: [Auxiliary@amvetswapost1.org](mailto:Auxiliary@amvetswapost1.org)

### New Phone Numbers

(253) 472-2552 .....Main

(253) 677-5727 .....Commanders

(253) 472-0560 .....Chappie's Lounge

## COMMUNICATIONS

Happy New Year to all AMVETS members!

During this new year, I would like to offer my services. If anyone is interested in learning more about how to design good flyers or brochures, or if you want to know how to use Word, Excel, or Publisher send me an email. I can do one-on-one or if I have enough interest, I can do a group training.

I am an advanced user in Microsoft products. I also have extensive training in designing. I can help you with that flyer or brochure to make whatever you're creating POP!

**Danette Gundy**

**Communications Officer & Newsletter Editor**

Email: [communications@amvetswa.org](mailto:communications@amvetswa.org)

## HISTORIAN

Linda Hunt gave me some information on WASP WWII Museum. I would like to share that with you. Please read the attached article for your pleasure.

**Taryn Hopey, Historian**

## QUARTERMASTER

Quartermaster will be available only on the following days and times: 2nd Thursday of the month 6-8PM and 4th Thursday of the month 5:30-8PM.

**Danelle Wyatt, Quartermaster**

Phone: (253) 988-1538

### New Phone Numbers

(253) 472-2552 ..... Main

(253) 677-5727 ..... Commanders

(253) 472-0560 ..... Chappie's Lounge

To continue receiving important information from our Post, provide your email address to

[newsletter@amvetswapost1.org](mailto:newsletter@amvetswapost1.org) or go online [www.amvetswa.org/newsworthy](http://www.amvetswa.org/newsworthy)

Newsletters will also be available in Chappies Lounge and the Service Office.

If you feel you're on the list to receive your newsletter by email and you are not receiving it—please check your spam/junk email folder.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	 Building Closed	Chappie's Closed Sons Meeting 7PM PTSD 10-12 Noon	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts Camel Races 5PM	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Kitchen Open BAKE SALE 6-8PM Barstool Bingo 4PM	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Kitchen Open Auxiliary Raffles 6-8PM Music: 8-11PM Randy Litch	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Horse Racing 4PM Karaoke 7PM
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts Jam Session with Gatekeepers 5PM	Building Closed	Chappie's Closed PTSD 10-12 Noon Marine Corp League 6PM	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts LCR (Left Center Right) 5PM	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Kitchen Open Barstool Bingo 4PM Auxiliary Mtg 6:30PM	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Kitchen Open Riders Raffles 6-8PM	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Riders Meeting 10AM Horse Racing 4PM Karaoke 7PM
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts Jam Session with Gatekeepers 5PM	 Building Closed	Chappie's Closed PTSD 10-12 Noon	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts BUNCO 5PM	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Kitchen Open JOB FAIR 10-1PM Trustee Mtg 6PM Barstool Bingo 4PM	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Kitchen Open Sons Raffle 6-8PM Music: 8-11PM One Man Band	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Horse Racing 4PM Karaoke 7PM
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts Jam Session with Gatekeepers 5PM	Building Closed	Chappie's Closed PTSD 10-12 Noon	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts LCR (Left Center Right) 5PM	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Post Mtg 6PM Barstool Bingo 4PM NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Commander's Raffle 6-8PM	Chappies OPEN 3-12AM Horse Racing 4PM Karaoke 7PM
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts Jam Session with Gatekeepers 5PM	Building Closed	Chappie's Closed PTSD 10-12 Noon	Chappies OPEN 3-10PM Texas Hold'Em 3PM sign up 3:30PM starts Camel Races 5PM			

## Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) During World War II National WASP WWII Museum

A woman reading a magazine in the lounge of a nurse's barracks helped change history forever.

Millions of lives were saved.

In short, the unwavering bravery of two **Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)** at Eglin Air Force Base outside of Pensacola, Florida played a crucial part in ending the bloodiest conflict the world had ever seen.

It was estimated that one million Americans would lose their lives in an invasion of mainland Japan during World War II. Five to ten million Japanese would die defending it.

Secretly, the United States worked on the Manhattan Project to avoid this calamity.

But in June of 1944, as the Allies stormed the beaches of Normandy, there was no way for the United States to deliver the bomb being developed at the Manhattan Project.



That happened to be the same time "Didi" Moorman was sitting in a nurse's barracks, reading a magazine.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Tibbets, the American hero who would go on to pilot the *Enola Gay* over Hiroshima, walked in.

Lt Col Tibbets had a big problem. The B-29 Superfortress, the largest bomber the world had ever seen, and the plane equipped to eventually deliver "the bomb," had been a complete mess.

Its Wright engines were nicknamed the "wrong" engines by pilots everywhere, as flaws in the engines caused them to repeatedly overheat and burst into flames while the massive plane was midair.

In fact, renowned test pilot Edmund T. Allen, his eight crewmen, and 19 civilians in a meat-processing plant outside of Boeing's headquarters in Seattle died because of an engine fire which caused the B-29 to crash.

Some of the bravest men who have ever served our great country simply refused to fly in a B-29, including Tibbets' own handpicked men.

So Tibbets ended up in Florida where he found Didi Moorman reading a magazine. He marched right up to her and asked "Do you have any four-engine time?"

Didi did not. Her friend Dora Dougherty, also there at the base, came



the closest. She had flown A-20s, which weren't four-engine aircraft, but at least they were medium-range bombers.

Didi and Dora were two of the 25,000 women who applied to be WASP when the U.S. military put out the call for female pilots. Only 1,800 were accepted into the program. Just over a thousand graduated.

The WASP played a vital role in the war effort by flying planes from factories to airbases, by towing targets for anti-aircraft training, by test-piloting experimental aircraft, and by training male pilots.

They were subject to military discipline and military conditions. They are the only unit that flew every type of aircraft—from bombers like the B-24 to fighters like the P-51 Mustang.

In total, the WASP flew over 60 million miles, and 38 of them made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives for their country.

While the male pilots would not dare get into a B-29, Didi and Dora jumped at the opportunity.

Lt. Colonel Tibbets trained them in 3 days.

When one of the engines caught fire in mid-air, Didi and Dora handled it perfectly. Without missing a beat, they "feathered" the engine, pulled the fire extinguisher, and with the other 3 engines, landed the massive bomber perfectly.

Tibbets knew Didi and Dora were ready for what he had planned and acted quickly.





He had Fifinella, the mascot of the WASP, painted

on the B-29, named the bomber “Ladybird,” and sent them off on demonstration flights.



They ferried pilots, crew chiefs and navigators from the heavy-bomber based at Almgordo, New Mexico to other bases across the country.

After a few days, they were ordered to stop.

Male pilots embarrassed by the sight of the massive warbird, which wasn’t supposed to be “flyable,” touching down on the runway, and two women emerging from the cockpit.

Embarrassed by their timidity compared to the undaunted WASP, male pilots got over their fear quickly. They stopped worrying about the dangers, and began training to fly.

Within a year, the B-29 ended World War II.

It may never have happened with the WASP.

Nonetheless, Didi, Dora, and the rest of the WASP were overlooked and sometimes outright resented during their service.

Much worse, for decades afterwards, these amazing women were forgotten after they served their duty so well and so honorable.

As I mentioned, 38 WASP gave their lives for their country during the war. All of them were denied standard military death benefits. When a “fly girl” died, her sister pilots had to chip in funds to transport the casket home for a proper burial.

After WWII, the WASP were denied all Veterans’ benefits, including the GI Bill. Nor were they allowed to join groups like the American Legion.



Yet, none of these slights diminished the desire of these women to serve. Cornelia Fort, the first WASP to give her life for her country, expressed the patriotism of these women best:

*“...That we, in a very small way, are being allowed to help keep the sky free is the most beautiful thing I have ever known. I, for one,*

*am profoundly grateful that my one talent, my only knowledge, flying, happens to be of use to my country when it is needed.”*

—Cornelia Clark Fort

Unfortunately, it would take decades for these brave, patriotic women to be recognized.

Finally, in 1977, WASP Bee Haydu, Senator Barry Goldwater (a WWII ferry pilot) and Col. Bruce Arnold, the son of Gen. Hap Arnold, formed a coalition to pass legislation giving the WASP Veteran status, which entitled these women to most of the benefits other Veterans receive.

In 2009, the WASP were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor one can receive.

But even as recently as 2015, when WASP Elane Harmon passed away, her dying wish—to have her ashes placed in Arlington National Cemetery’s Columbarium—was denied because of a change by the outgoing Secretary of the Army.

Fortunately, the Harmon family—with the full support of the National WASP WWII Museum—was successfully in getting this policy reversed.

But the whole ordeal demonstrates the ongoing need for recognition.

Which is what the National WASP WWII Museum strives for each and every day at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, the site of the WASP Training Grounds and our museum dedicated to these brave but little-known Veterans.

If you would like to learn more or make a donation to the National WASP WWII Museum, please visit [www.waspmuseum.org](http://www.waspmuseum.org)



Information provided by Linda Hunt and the National WASP WWII Museum