



HACKETT LARSON POST 163 NEWSLETTER

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MAY= POPPY DAYS AND MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is May 31.

As we look ahead to Memorial Day Weekend with its countdown to the last day of school, please stop for just a moment and look back to the month of May in another time. May, 1918.

America was engaged in a World War-- the first time this young country had joined forces with other nations to defend a free society. The young men of the American Expeditionary Forces faced a war in France more cruel than they could have imagined... war fought from trenches that stretched from Switzerland to the North Sea.

That May of 1918, they spent week after week crouched in trenches filling with spring rain, turning the earth that had been frozen to mud. On those spring breezes came waves of mustard gas -- and the smell of death.

That same rain and warm sun that added to the terrible conditions in the trenches made the wild poppies grow -- field after field of bright red poppies growing where thousands had died.

It was nature's memorial to the lost friends and comrades -- a symbol of their sacrifice -- a symbol that is now a memorial to all men and women who have died serving their country in war time. It is a small reminder to the American public that millions have died so there could be a San Juan Marathon, so children could go to school... so there would be an America as we know it today.

For the next two weekends, May 22—23 and May 29-30 and then on Memorial Day, the members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 163, the mothers, wives, and daughters of the men and women who have honorably served their country during war time, will once again ask the citizens of Friday Harbor to remember the sacrifice that has been made for America by wearing a poppy.



This memorial poppy is not only a personal tribute to the dead, but it also honors the living veteran and helps with rehabilitation work. You see, the poppy we will distribute in return for a contribution is made by disabled veterans as part of their physical therapy in recovery. **Poppies made by veterans... to remember veterans... to help veterans.**

You will also be pleased to know that every cent we collect for poppies is spent on veterans and their families right here on San Juan Island. We provide for veterans in need, for scholarships and assistance for veteran families and for our veterans in convalescent center and adult family care homes here on San Juan Island.

When you wear this little red flower it helps to keep alive the kind of patriotism so necessary in this great country of ours. As long as such a feeling exists in our hearts, we need not fear for the future of our nation for we will never forget the price of war and the responsibility of freedom.

So, please when you see the veterans and Auxiliary members with poppies accept one and wear it with pride. And when you see the veterans on Memorial Day, just say, "Thank you for your service."

ARE YOU PART OF THE 10% ? - GET INVOLVED!

You have to become involved to make an impact. No one is impressed with the won/loss record of the referee.

~ *John Holcomb* ~

The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion are all service organizations. Yet, a majority of the members of each of those groups simply uses their membership to access the club. They don't get involved.

Recently I read an article about people who stop being involved in organizations. The number one reason that volunteers quit is that they feel un-recognized and un-appreciated. In fact, according to the magazine article, 35% of volunteers drop out because they don't feel like they are part of things. Are you one of those volunteers?

Unfortunately, the article also said that it is common in most organizations that 10% of the members do 90% of the work. There are enough members at Post 163 that if each member would commit to just one single volunteer project per year, that would be all the volunteer time needed from one person.

Whether you belong to the Legion, SAL or Auxiliary, here are some questions to ask yourself.

- ★ Do you know what the volunteer opportunities are at Post 163?
- ★ Do you have the opportunity to choose projects which are interesting for you and best suit your talents?
- ★ Did someone say "Thank

you" the last time you volunteered?

- ★ Do your opinions count in meetings?

(Of course your opinion will never count if you don't attend the meetings and express yourself.)

Now set a plan of action and get involved. It doesn't have to take much of your time. Here are some examples of things you can do to serve in our Post 163 family.

Poppy Days – The weekends of May 22-23 and May 29-31 are Poppy Days. That means representatives of Post 163 will be distributing poppies to commemorate those who have given their lives for our country. Can you spare two hours to sit at a table and help distribute the poppies? Call Marilyn Goff at 378-3370 to volunteer.

Memorial Day Ceremony – We need volunteers of Legion and Legion Auxiliary to march in the ceremony. Call Shannon Plummer at 317- 5256 if you want to participate.

The San Juan County Fair- The Legion Auxiliary operates a fair booth at the fair. You can participate by simply buying your lunch at the booth or if you really want to have some fun, join one of the cooking teams. No experience necessary. The shifts are 4 hours but the time goes fast. Call Callie McKay at 378-8247 to help with the fair booth.

The patio – Do you have a green thumb? Soon we will need to pressure wash the cement and reseal it. It takes a few hours of one Saturday. If you have a pressure washer or are willing to help move patio furniture call Marlene Crosby at 378-2858. In May we will replant the pots on the patio so that our summer will bloom. If you'd like to help with that, call Marlene. Maybe you would like to volunteer to water the plants once a week? Or perhaps you don't mind spending a few minutes a week trimming and plucking dead heads off the blooming summer plants? Let Marlene know.

Troop Care Packages – For three years we have been collecting money and comfort items on the first Saturday of the month. On the following Wednesday we pack those items into care packages for our local troops serving overseas. The shifts on the Saturday collection date are 2 hours starting at 8 AM and ending at 6 PM. Call Minnie Knych at 378-4662 if you would like to volunteer for a shift. Everyone is welcome at the packing party – call Minnie and volunteer to pack. No time to pack? You can still contribute by donating some homemade cookies. Our troops say cookies are a favorite thing to receive.

Not being able to do everything is no excuse for not doing everything you can.

~ *Ashleigh Brilliant* ~

In May we will be electing new officers for the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary. Each organization will have a proposed slate of officers.

Nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting. Please plan to attend the meetings of SAL, Auxiliary and Legion. Let your vote count.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2010/2011**

- President—Pauli Gavora
- 1st VP—Debbie Sutliff
- 2nd VP— Marlene Crosby
- Treasurer— Alex Gavora
- Secretary— Ellie Gull
- Membership Secretary – Rinie McCutcheon
- Chaplain— Elaine Gifford
- Sgt. At Arms — Minnie Knych
- Board Members: Shirley Vejvoda, Molly Liebman, Joann Sample, Virginia Blachley



In Memoriam



American Legion Auxiliary

Have you ever looked, really *looked*, at a soldier's face? Sometimes it's young, barely an adult the hopes of youth still painted in its features. Sometimes it's old older than faith, older than wisdom, older than time. And sometimes...sometimes it's a bit of both all at once. Sometimes it's gritty and pained, remembering the face of another who has fallen.

Sometimes it's laughing, pleased to have a moment of peace. Most of the time it's proud because it knows, oh yes it knows, the world is a different place a better place because of it.

Next time you look at a soldier's face, see if you can find that glint of pride. Sometimes it's hidden, and you have to search it out. You'll find it in the eyes always in the eyes. For the eyes are indeed the windows to the soul, even a soldier's soul. And when you've carefully examined every feature of that soldier's face, stand up straight and tall and smile your best smile.

Thank that soldier, because he does what some cannot or will not. He defends what is right with his very life. But more important, he defends a perfect stranger, you.

And when you see a flag covered casket, stand in memoriam of all the soldier's faces you've examined. For when one of them falls, they all fall. And when one of them stands, they all stand. Shouldn't we stand with them?

*Lilian Leader
June 2, 2006*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, May 1—Collection for Troop Care Packages at Market Place



Wednesday, May 5 - TEAM TRIVIA @ 6:00 PM. \$3 per person to play—proceeds benefit Honor Flights for WWII veterans.

Wednesday, May 12 — Packing for Troop Care Packages @ 5:30 public is welcome to help. Please donate homemade cookies.

Thursday, May 13—American Legion Auxiliary meeting @ 5:30 PM

Tuesday, May 18—American Legion Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Wednesday, May 19 — SAL meeting @ 5:30 PM

Monday, May 31—Memorial Day. Join us for the ceremony at Memorial Park at 10:00 AM

Monday, May 31—Potluck Lunch at Post 163—12:00 Noon

MILITARY SHORT STORIES

A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of Officers that included personnel from most of those countries.

Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, 'whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English.' He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?'

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied 'Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.'