

From The Commander

Dear Post Members,

As we close out 2025, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for each of you and the continued strength you bring to our American Legion family.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Thanksgiving Feast. The food was delicious, the company was outstanding, and it was truly an American–Legion–style celebration—full of camaraderie, laughter, and community spirit.

December is shaping up to be a fun and festive month. The bar has several exciting events planned, and the AUX will be hosting their always-popular horseradish-making day along with the Christmas Bazaar.

I also look forward to seeing everyone at our Post Christmas Party on Friday, December 12th at 6:00 PM. We will once again hold our annual white elephant gift exchange—a tradition that always brings lots of fun and surprises!

As we move into the holiday season, I wish you and your families a warm, blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year. Please take a moment to check in on your fellow Legion members. This season can be difficult for some, and a simple call or visit can make all the difference.

Thank you for helping make 2025 a wonderful year for our Post. Here's to an even better 2026!

For God and Country,

Angie Arreguin (619) 459-7211 commander@orcaslegion.org





Auxiliary

Happy December!

Thank you to everyone who made Turkey Dinner a success! Lots of work went into cooking turkeys, chopping things, making all the sides, and serving everything. Huge shout out to Jasmin, Alicia, Kerissa, Patty, Connie, Sara, Sue, Shelley, Velma, Darby and everyone who brought a pie! Extra big shout out to Sean for washing all the dishes!!

It's horseradish time! Come cry with us December 3 rd at 3:00pm. We'll be scrubbing, peeling, and grinding up fresh horseradish.

The Holiday Bazaar! Saturday, December 6 th! 10:00am – 3:00pm. We've got all the locally made gifts, the Christmas Room, Soup Bisto, Bakesale, and Raffle Baskets! Want to volunteer at the Bazaar – give me a shout! We've still got spots.

Calling all Bakers – we'll need bake sale items for the Bazaar! You can drop things off Friday when the club is open or Saturday morning.

We will be meeting on Wednesday, December 10 th at 5:30pm.

American Lake VA is accepting gently used items for veterans right now. The most needed items are jackets (warm & Damp; rain) and boots. If you'd like to bring your CLEAN, lightly used items in for us to send down, there's a box outside the front door of the hall.

We hope everyone has a safe, and happy holiday season!

Katie O'Rourke Auxiliary President unit93auxiliary@gmail.com 315-395-1037



SAL

Happy Holidays to one and all,

As we enter the last month of 2025 it is time to get your dues in 2026. Many of you have completed that which is great. Please renew by mailing a check to the post, or in person at the post with cash or credit card if possible. There is an online option, but it is very hard for us to track and get your cards to you in a timely manner. Also make sure we have your current address if you have moved in the last few years and will work to get the roster updated.

This November we and the Aux had the opportunity to have a food concession booth at the Hops On the Rock event in Eastound. It was a great success with the invitation to be there next year. With lessons learned on the amount of food to prepare we should have even greater success. Big thank you to Katie, April, Jason, Kyle, Liam, Rich and to the post for having a mobile credit card app.

Rolling into this next year it would be extremely helpful to have more participation in our SAL. Meeting is the third Tues of the month. We try and start at six. These meetings are important for a healthy club, for our fundraisers and for our charitable expenditure.

Coming in the new year will be the 3rd annual Cribbage Tournament and the month of February and March will have Friday night cornhole tournaments with dinner service.

We can always use help and players to make this a success. As we close the year, we have completed our major payouts for the year, consisting of \$4500 in scholarships, \$2,000 shoe drive for local children, and \$1,300 to the post. We would like to find some more veteran organizations to support but this again requires member participation at the meetings and our events.

There is currently a coat and boot drive for veterans happening at the post. If you have good-conditioned coats and boots they can be placed in the drop box outside the main hall door or brought in during open hours.

Have a wonderful holiday season, Rich Harvey and SAL board



FROM THE BAR

Merry Christmas to you,

Can you believe its that time of year already???

If you missed Trivia night last month, first, kick yourself then go to the calendar and reserve the 20th. We had a fun time but wished there were more participants. Cash prizes awarded to first and second place teams. Bring a friend. Starting time is 5:00ish....

If you have even wanted to be the host of Trivia, please, let me know. It would be great to have a different person host each time....

Join us Friday 12th, for a festive potluck dinner and our "White Elephant Gift Exchange" Dinner start at 6:00.

The Lounge will be open Christmas Day and New Years Day, with limited hours. Both days will be a pot luck. Bring your favorite side or desert and come on down to celebrate with your dear Legion Family.

From the Lounge, Happy Holidays!

Lori Gates



"Serving Those Who Served"



MICHAEL TILL NORTH PUGET SOUND VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

(206) 843-5726 michaeLtill@dva.wa.gov (Scan QR code for contact information)



ON-SITE IN SAN JUAN COUNTY AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

FRIDAY HARBOR

American Legion Post 163 1st & 3st Wednesdays 10:30 – 2:30

EASTSOUND

Orcas Island Public Library 1st & 3st Fridays 12:00 – 3:30

HOW CAN I HELP?

My mission in San Juan County is to assist Veterans and their family members with filing VA disability compensation claims and appeals, VA Pension claims, VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) survivor's benefits, VA Burial benefits, help with navigating VA Healthcare, and more. Please call or email to schedule an appointment. Walk-in assistance is available if no prior appointment has been scheduled.

