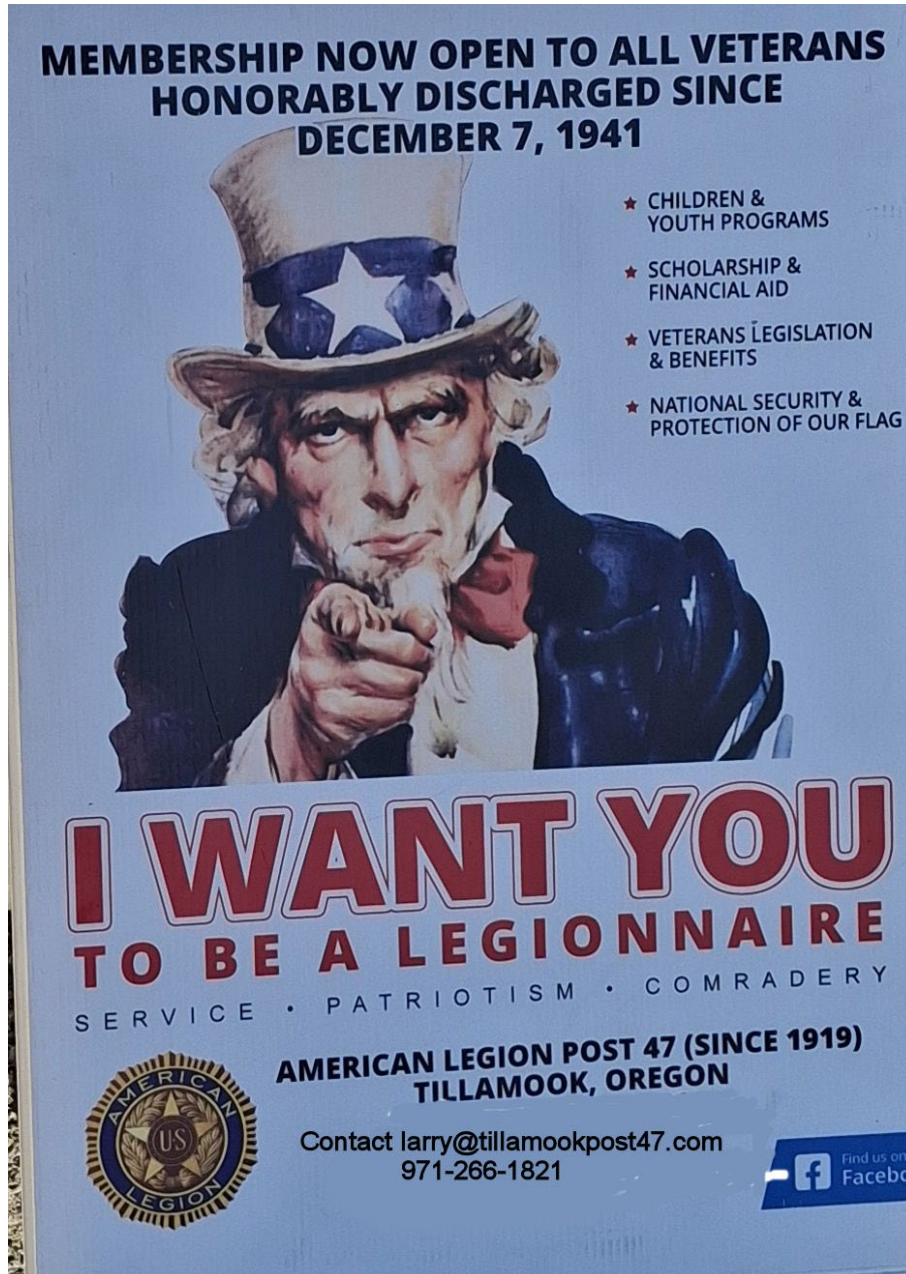


American Legion Post 47 Newsletter

September 1, 2024




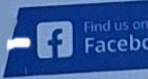
**MEMBERSHIP NOW OPEN TO ALL VETERANS
HONORABLY DISCHARGED SINCE
DECEMBER 7, 1941**

- ★ CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS
- ★ SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID
- ★ VETERANS LEGISLATION & BENEFITS
- ★ NATIONAL SECURITY & PROTECTION OF OUR FLAG

**I WANT YOU
TO BE A LEGIONNAIRE**
SERVICE • PATRIOTISM • COMRADERY

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 47 (SINCE 1919)
TILLAMOOK, OREGON**

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New Monument in Town



I suspect all of us have seen this wonderful new monument from our cars. You really should take the trouble to see it close-up. It gave me chills when I actually stood before it.

It was installed June 26 of this year. Tillamook City Councilor Doug Henson devoted a lot of time and effort until illness stopped him. City Councilor/Veteran Services Officer Nick Torres carried through with the project until it was finished. More than \$200,000 was devoted to the project and support came from more than a dozen local sources. Our post's contribution was \$2,000 thanks to Rick Stelzig.

New Slate of Officers

The July 22 meeting featured the installation of a new slate of officers. Wendy Burger-Wood, the Oregon Post Commander, visited to officiate and the following took their oath and were installed as officers.

Commander - Kevin Lindsey

First Vice Commander - Al Winters Jr

Second Vice Commander - Vacant

Adjutant - Larry Emery

Vice Adjutant - Vacant

Finance Officer - Rick Stelzig

Chaplain - George Schmader

Historian - Jim Heffernan

Service Officer - Nick Torres

Sgt At Arms - Larry Morrill

Judge Advocate - Vacant

E- Board - Steve Smith

E-Board - Glen Boege

E-Board - Tom McGue

Be The One!

I've been thinking a lot about suicide these days. It's not personal. I've lived a charmed life and call myself very happy for someone who is almost as old as Trump.

But for my fellow veterans, men and women who were willing to give up their Constitutional rights to defend that Constitution, it's too often a different story.

I never really gave it much thought until I joined the American Legion. The American Legion is an organization of veterans and is dedicated to furthering the welfare of all veterans. Suicide prevention is high on their list of priorities.

Between 2011 and 2022, 5,997 service members died by suicide — more than six times the number killed in combat during the same period.

There seems to be a link between exposure to explosive blasts and suicide rates. In the civilian world (and for Air Force veterans) the suicide rate is about 14 per 100,000. Explosive ordnance disposal team members, who disable roadside bombs and routinely train and work around very large blasts, had the highest suicide rate — 34.77 deaths per 100,000 people per year — followed by infantry and special operations forces; armor crews; and artillery troops; whose rates are closer to 30 deaths per 100,000.

The Legion has a program to prevent the tragic loss of life that suicide brings. It's called "Be The One". <https://www.legion.org/betheone> I don't know much about it yet. I've registered at the web site and I am scheduled for zoom training in September. The idea is that troubled veterans on the verge of suicide might be saved if they just had some "one" to talk to.

If the "Be The One" program doesn't appeal to you, think of joining the Legion if you're a veteran or maybe just making a cash contribution.

Expect to hear more about this. As always, discussion is welcome at codger817@gmail.com.

Local "Be The One" Training

If zoom training is not to your liking, local in-person training with free lunch will be available at Veteran's service office in the courthouse basement September 20 from 10AM to 1:30PM.

Interested in Golf or Bowling

We have plans for future golf tournaments and bowling events to promote interest, generate revenue and maybe have some fun. Great ideas, but nothing will come of it unless somebody pitches in to help. If you want to be a somebody contact Larry Emery (larry@tillamookpost47.com) 971-266-1821) and he'll point you the right direction.

50-50 Raffle

Starting at the September 23 meeting, we will be having a 50-50 raffle where the winner will be drawn at the end of the meeting. The winner will get 50% and the post will get 50%.

Attendance Report

We're growing, let's keep it up. We're up to 76 members. Very good for a post that has risen from nothing a few years ago. Promote the legion to anyone you know.