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PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF YAKIMA
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Unite For Good

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

KIP RAMSEY
RAMSEY FAMILY & YAKAMA NATION HISTORY

Kip Ramsey is a proud Native American, whose life has been guided by hard work, family and service to his community. He began working as a cattleman where he learned the values of dedication and responsibility, caring for the land and livestock that provided for his family over the years. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to create several business ventures that not only supported his family but also provided meaningful opportunities and jobs for Native Americans and his community.

Believing strongly in education, Kip has served as a board member at Heritage University for many years, helping to ensure that Native students have access to the support and opportunities they need, not just in the classroom, but also as they take their next steps into the working world.

Alongside his business and community work, he has also dedicated much of his life to collecting Native American artifacts with care and respect. He has carefully preserved pieces of history that honor the traditions, creativity and resilience of his people, together with his wife Lyndia he has built a legacy rooted in family culture, and service. His life's work stands as a reminder that success is measured not only in what we have accomplished for ourselves, but in how we lift others along the way.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Vicki Baker, Dan Gaulke
Music/Inspiration – Little Swan Dancers
Program – Kyle Curtis
Attendance – David Cobia

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 27th – Happy Thanksgiving, No Meeting
December 4th – Danielle Oristian York, Growing Greatness, Teaching the Next Generation
December 11th – John Canzano, College Sports in the Northwest
December 18th – Rotary Holiday Bingo Party

SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL

It's time for another Second Chance Social! Come unwind at the end of the day at Westwood Golf Club on Wednesday, November 19th from 5:30pm to 7pm.

Rotary is treating you to hors d'oeuvres – drinks are on you. No tee time required. Bring a guest and swing by for great company and the best conversation.

ROTARY BELL RINGING SIGN-UPS

It's that time again – Rotary Bell Ringing is back, and we need your help to make it joyful and raise support for those in need! The dates are set for Saturday December 6th and again from Tuesday, December 9th through Saturday, December 13th. You have your choice of four locations with four shifts per day: Wray's 56, Rosauers, Fred Meyer Grocery Entrance, and Fred Meyer North from 10am to noon; noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm; and 4pm to 6pm.

Sign-up sheets will be on the table next week or you can use the email link sent to you today to sign-up on-line. Whether you're a veteran ringer or a rookie, going solo or bringing a buddy, we'd love to have you on the team.

REVIEW

This week was a time to celebrate Veterans Day. We started with thanks to our greeters: Jolene Seda, Kate Urwin, and Mike Mittelman and the Presentation of Colors by the Yakama Warriors that included the National Anthem on taps. They were amazing and in 2022 were recognized as Rotary Unsung Heroes. David Cobia provided an inspirational message about gratitude that included a quote by Maya Angelou, *"This is a wonderful day, I have never seen this one before."* With two quick announcements about next week's Second Chance Social and the start of sign-ups for Rotary Bell Ringing, Doug Rich finished Rotary business with the perfect sergeant-at-arms quiz on the branches of military service.

Anthony Peterson had the honor of introducing our program speaker, Marine Veteran Fernando Hernandez. His story, shared with us, was full of family (especially his wife), honor, and country. A product of the Wapato School District, he and his wife were childhood sweethearts. The birth of their first child was weeks after high school graduation. The realization that he had a child to care for was the catalyst for joining the Marines. He served for 26 years and was privileged to lead and serve with Marines across the world, in times of peace and times of war. He shared how it seemed just like yesterday that he stepped on yellow footprints when he got off the bus at recruit boot camp – that is where the journey begins for all new recruits. He often reflects on the incredible opportunities that the Marine Corp gave him; they shaped his character, leadership and purpose. At one time, an old Marine sat him down and told him "Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care." Those words still guide him today and serve as a reminder that real leadership is about people, connection and compassion.

The Veteran community in Yakima is made up of incredible men and women; each with their own story. When he left military life, it wasn't his title or position that helped him, it was the people that showed him they cared. He thought the transition to civilian life would be simple; it wasn't. He learned that leaving the uniform behind doesn't mean the battles stop. Yakima's resources became lifelines. The Vet Center gave him a safe place to talk, the Yakima County Veterans Program opened his eyes to resources he never knew existed, and the Chuck Austin Place helped him rediscover his sense of purpose. A friend who retired a year before him gave him the advice to find his tribe and find his purpose. He found his tribe through the Veteran community and found his purpose through the OIC of Washington where he serves as a career counselor for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. He is still trying to figure out what he wants to be when he grows up but knows that whatever he does it will include service, contribution, and making a positive difference in people's lives – the same things he sees in us as Rotarians.

He talked about the contribution of spouses who have to pack up, move and find new schools every couple of years. He talked about coaching and talking the kids into using his home team name the Wolfpack. The law of jungle is how he feels about his hometown, Marine Corp and the Veteran community – the strength of pack is the wolf, the strength of wolf is the pack. With time for questions and answers, he left us with the words, take care of yourself, take care of each other, and always remember we are always stronger when we work together.

President Sheri ended the meeting with a beautiful tribute to all our Veterans, asking them to stand, to say thank you for their service, sacrifice, and for allowing us to live with the precious gift of freedom. THANK YOU!