



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021
NO MEETING

*Serve to
Change Lives*



FUTURE PROGRAMS

- December 2nd – Terry Hunt, Sherlock Holmes
- December 9th – Rhonda Hauff, Yakima Neighborhood Health
- December 16th – Candy Cane Walk-Through Christmas Celebration
- December 23rd – No Meeting, Happy Holidays

NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

The
Rotary
Foundation



The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. As the charitable arm of Rotary International, they tap into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money, and expertise into Rotary's priorities of promoting peace; fighting disease; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; saving mothers and children; supporting education; growing local economies; and protecting the environment.

Strong financial oversight, a stellar charity rating, and a unique funding model mean that the Foundation can make the very most of your contribution. A contribution to the Rotary Foundation is one of the best investments you can make. For as little as 60 cents, a child can be protected from polio. \$50 can provide clean water to fight waterborne illnesses. To learn more, contact the Rotary office today. Give and become a part of Rotary's life-changing work!

ROTARACT, MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL & SEAHAWKS

Yakima Rotaract is holding a Seahawks viewing party to raise money for their annual Scholarship Program on Monday, November 29th at the Sports Center. For \$30, you will be treated to dinner, silent auction, beer tickets and a great night of football showing on multiple screens. Must be 21 or older to attend. Door open at 5pm with kick-off at 5:15pm. The number of tickets available is limited. You can get them on-line by going to Yakima Rotaract's Facebook page or at the door.



ROTARY BELL RINGERS NEEDED

Sign-ups are underway for Rotary Bell Ringing week from Monday, December 6th through Saturday, December 11th at four locations: Wray's 56th, Rosauers, Fred Meyer North Entrance, and Fred Meyer Grocery Entrance. There are only 29 shifts left to be filled out of the total 96 shifts we started with. The greatest need is help at the Fred Meyer locations. Shifts run from 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm, 3pm-5pm, and 5pm to 7pm every day. Please check your calendars and do your small part to brighten the lives of others during this holiday season.



- REVIEW -

Today's meeting was a wonderful celebration of Veteran's Day. It all began with a musical tribute honoring those who have served in the 6 branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Marisol Summers followed with an invocation of thanks for all who have served. President John followed with announcements. There are still shifts available for Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and there is still time to sponsor a child, or shop for a child through Project 500. Sheri Bissell was on-hand to sell Rotary Centennial Chardonnay. A chicken recipe using this delicious wine was provided by President John. Contact the Rotary office if you would like a bottle or two. David McKinney shared information on how to buy a "Win A Home" Perry Technical Foundation raffle ticket. The drawing is January 8th and 100% of the profits benefit student scholarships. Sergeant-at-arms provided by Austin Beebe was trivia about war facts.

Casey Corr introduced today's program in honor of our veterans with a focus on members of our Valley who served in World War II. Casey along with Cragg Gilbert, Greg Luring, and Dana Dwinell shared some of the compelling stories of these local heroes. Casey began by reading excerpts from a letter written by a 27-year-old GI soldier to his sister a week after he reached the gates of the Dachau concentration camp on April 29, 1945. It was a descriptive look at the horror of the camp, the rail cars, the gas chambers, the piles of clothes of the victims, the bodies, the crematory, and the smells. This brave soldier was Casey's uncle Frank Corr.

Cragg Gilbert narrated the story of Dallas Finch. Dallas grew up in Steptoe, WA. After college he went to Granger, Sunnyside, and Grandview to teach History, English, and conduct the band. After Pearl Harbor he was drafted into the Army leaving behind a wife expecting their first child. He began with the rank of Private and went to Texas assigned to a Tank Destroyer Battalion. He volunteered when his Sergeant was looking for a typist thus becoming the clerk for the officers. By 1944 he was a clerk for General Eisenhower in the War Room. All of his messages had to be translated into code. He also set up the maps in the War room before all the American and English Generals and Churchill arrived. He had a Top Secret he translated and sent in code the final orders for D-Day from General Eisenhower. After D-Day he was promoted to Sergeant and was stationed in France when the Germans surrendered. On May 7, 1945 he was awakened to set up the War Room for the signing of the surrender terms and sent the coded message to the White House that ended the European Theater of Operations war. On December 29, 1945 he returned home to his son and met his three-year old son Roger for the first time. We were honored to have Roger Finch, Roger's son Peter Finch and Roger's sister Sue Lewis joining us.

We next watched a video about Fausto Cruz narrated by his nephew Enrique Cerna. In August 1942 Fausto left the Valley to join the Navy. He was a crew member of the USS Colorado. This ship played a major role in defeating the Japanese in the Pacific. He moved up the ranks to run a 4-man 20-millimeter gun crew shooting down Japanese torpedo planes and dive-bombers. The ship was attacked on two different occasions killing fellow crew members and friends.

The next video was the story of Virginia Beavert, a proud member of the Yakama Nation. Virginia was born in a bear cave in 1921 during a hunting trip in a blizzard. Twenty-four years later as a member of the U.S. Army, Virginia spent years as a radio operator confined to the most secret base in the country at Clovis, NM. The only woman in her division, she would check bomber plane wiring and train crews in radio operations. The secrecy was so tight on the base that no one was allowed to leave. Instead, entertainment was brought in. After the war she earned degrees in anthropology and linguistics to preserve the language of her people, Sahaptin. Today, at the age of 99 she continues to teach Sahaptin to students at the University of Oregon.

At least 41 soldiers from the Yakima Valley fought on Iwo Jima. At least 16 of them died and another five were wounded. Cragg Gilbert and Dana Dwinell shared some of their stories. Among those, was the story of Don Dwinell, a Navy Lieutenant who served aboard the light cruiser USS Wilkes-Barre, which bombarded the island for many days and turned back a Japanese counter-attack on Marines. After the war, Don returned to Yakima and started Dwinell Central Neon and became the father of Rotarian Dana Dwinell.

Greg Luring shared the story of Harold Edward "Cannonball" Baker, a farm boy from Lower Naches who was instrumental in restoring freedom to the world. Harold graduated from the Naval Academy in 1932 and served on submarines patrolling the Pacific for nine years which prepared him for his role in defeating the Japanese fleet in the South Pacific. During his tenure Commander Baker and his staff strategically managed 200,000 naval personnel in the Battle of Leyte, the largest naval battle in the history of the world.

Peter Arnold ended this incredible presentation by sharing all the stories you heard today along with many others will be part of an exhibit on World War II opening at the Yakima Valley Museum in 2023. To date, they have about 1,200 names on file of local veterans. That is only scratching the surface. If you know of someone who served or you have artifacts or memorabilia from WWII that you would like to share please contact the museum.