POST HOURS Tue–Thu 4–8 pm · Fri–Sat 4–10 pm
Sun & Mon closed

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THE 969 DISPATCH

ERIC G. SANDSTROM POST 969 · AUXILIARY 969 · VFW RIDERS GROUP CHAPTER 3

OCTOBER 2026 · VOL. 1, NO. 1 ★ KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING ★ TACOMA, WASHINGTON

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

A Busy September, a Stronger 969

Hello, 969 Post and Auxiliary family!

What a September! On the 5th, our Chapter 3 VFW Riders rolled out to the Yelm Post's Car & Bike Show at Wilkowski Park in Rainier. On the 11th, I rode with the VFW Riders for the Department of Washington in the annual "Never Forget" Peace Arch Ride to Blaine. It marked 25 years since one of the most tragic days in our nation's history, and it was an honor to share that day of remembrance once again.

This month we also said goodbye to two of our own: a retired Army officer and an Auxiliary member. Please keep their families and loved ones in your prayers.

Last month we held our first joint Post and Auxiliary meeting, and I'm looking forward to many more. Talking together is how we build a stronger 969. Every meeting date is on the back page — come be part of it.

To everyone from the Post and Auxiliary who stepped up this month: thank you. We couldn't do any of it without you.

See you at the Post,
Jerry Busig
Commander, Post 969

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VFW

127 Years of Showing Up

Sept. 29, 1899: veterans home from the Spanish-American and Philippine wars promised to look after each other, and the VFW was born. The Auxiliary turned 112 on Sept. 14. Post 969 celebrates its 92nd on Dec. 5.

Proud Moment

Aux 969: Dept. of Washington's **2025–26 Lora Waters Outstanding Auxiliary of the Year**.

EVERY FRIDAY · 5 PM

Dinner's On

Oct. 9: Auxiliary's first **Breakfast for Dinner! Oct. 30:** the Riders cook. Come hungry!

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Navy Turns 251

Born Oct. 13, 1775. We celebrate at **Friday dinner, Oct. 16** — Navy vets, wear your ship's cap!

BRING THE KIDS

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2–4 pm. Costumes and vintage cars welcome, plus a Buddy Poppy table.

A WORD FROM THE AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT BOB BARTELL

A heartfelt **thank you** to every volunteer who gave their time this past month. You set up, served, cleaned up and simply showed up — and it makes all the difference. You are the reason Auxiliary 969 shines.

Now mark your calendar: our first **Auxiliary Breakfast for Dinner** is **Friday, Oct. 9 at 5 pm**, and it's back every second Friday. Bring your appetite and a friend!

— *Bob*

RIDERS CORNER · CHAPTER 3

PRESIDENT ROBERT "DUTCH" ANDERSON

Welcome to October! September took us on a fun run to Whistling Jacks in Cliffdell (no names, Red and Tom, but some of us had never been over Chinook Pass!) and up to Anacortes for the Oyster Run. Please give our newest rider, **Chris Maki**, a proper 969 welcome.

October is packed — Turkey Run, Bike Night, Toy Run (bring toys; no bikes or big toys), Harvest Moon Party and more. **See the calendar.** Got a vintage car? Show it off at the Trunk or Treat Oct. 31. And Nov. 7 in Auburn, we're defending our **Best VSO** parade title!

Proud to be part of the family. — *Dutch*

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Filing a VA Claim? Don't Pay Anyone. Ever.

VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) helps veterans file VA disability and separation claims for free. Not a discount — free. The accredited reps on our calendar this month are training in Annapolis, Oct. 4–9, so they can fight for you, not bill you.

Leaving the service from JBLM? VFW's National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep, Jason Scott, meets service members 90–180 days before discharge in Waller Hall, Room 700 (office 253-966-1279).

The Auxiliary backs it up with Adopt-a-Unit (Military Assistance Program), Student Veterans Support Grants, VFW Foundation grants and the VFW Mental Wellness Group.

Give: checks to VFW Processing Center, PO Box 2002, Milford, NH 03055-2002 (not the Dept. Treasurer). Questions: Rose Green, 360-908-2987.

OCTOBER IS AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS MONTH

Denied Before? Look Again.

The 2022 PACT Act added **high blood pressure** and **MGUS** to the VA's Agent Orange list and added new locations: bases in **Thailand**, **Laos**, parts of **Cambodia**, **Guam**, **American Samoa** and **Johnston Atoll**. Survivors may qualify too. VFW's NVS will file it for you — free.

MEMBER PERK

Book the Trip. Keep the Change.

Aux members save on rental cars, hotels, theme parks & more at **vfwauxiliary.benefithub.com**.

Referral code **HDDLQA**

You Are Not Alone

Veterans Crisis Line

Dial **988, press 1** · Text **838255**

Women Veterans

1-855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Wingmen Don't Fly Solo

No pilot takes off until a crew chief has walked the aircraft and checked every panel. September was Suicide Prevention Month, and the Department's pin said it best: *Standing Together*. That doesn't end on October 1.

This month, think of one member you haven't seen at Friday dinner lately. Call them. Save them a seat. Sit a while. Scripture puts it plainly: "Two are better than one ... if either of them falls down, one can help the other up" (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10).

— Mama (Shirley Hauser), Chaplain, Post 969

MEMBER PERK

$100 Once. Yours for Life.

Become a **Life Member of the VFW National Home** (Eaton Rapids, Mich.), where veterans' families get back on their feet.

vfwnationalhome.org/membership
866-483-9642

Like us on Facebook & leave a review!
facebook.com/VFWPost969Auxiliary

YOUR WEEK AT 969

Something Going On Every Night the Canteen's Open

TUESDAY

Taco Tuesday

Every Tuesday, 5 pm. Also **meeting night** for the Post, Riders & Auxiliary — dates on the back.

WEDNESDAY

Queen of Hearts

Post members only · 6 pm, drawing 7:15

THURSDAY

Bingo Night

Every Thursday, 6 pm — **lots of prizes!**

FRIDAY

Dinner, Raffle & Karaoke

Dinner 5 pm · **Raffle 6 pm** for meat, booze, 50/50 & Auxiliary baskets · Karaoke 7 pm

GAME DAY AT 969

Seahawks games: the Post is open! Bring food to share, and win free tickets throughout the game just for showing up and cheering on our Seattle team.

Sun Oct 4 Chargers 1:25 pm · **Sun Oct 11** 49ers 1:25 pm · **Thu Oct 15** at Denver 5:15 pm · **Sun Oct 25** Chiefs 5:20 pm

KNOW A STUDENT?

Essays Due Sat., Oct. 31

Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen entries due **Oct. 31**. Scholarships on the line!

JOIN · RENEW

Auxiliary dues **$40/year**, or **Life Member**: one-time payment based on age.
adj@vfw969.org · auxiliary969wa@gmail.com

COMING IN NOVEMBER: Cards due **Nov. 6** · Auburn Parade **Nov. 7**, then the Riders cook a **FREE Veterans dinner** at the Post, **5 pm** ($15 donation, non-vets)

OCTOBER 2026

THE 969 DISPATCH · CALENDAR
All at Post 969 unless noted

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6p Bingo *Jr Vice Trng*	**2** 5p Dinner 6p Raffle 7p Karaoke *Jr Vice Trng*	**3** 10:30a Turkey Run · SoSo Cycles *Jr Vice Trng*
4 Seahawks 1:25p *Jr Vice Trng* *NVS Trng*	**5** *NVS Trng*	**6** 5p Tacos 5p Bike Night *NVS Trng*	**7** 6p Queen of Hearts 6p Tacoma ABATE *NVS Trng*	**8** 6p Bingo Rec Park Cmte *NVS Trng*	**9** Aux Breakfast for Dinner 5p Dinner 6p Raffle 7p Karaoke *NVS Trng*	**10** 11a Toy Run · Eagle Leather
11 Seahawks 1:25p	**12**	**13** Navy Birthday 5p Tacos House Committee 6p VFW Riders Group	**14** 6p Queen of Hearts	**15** Seahawks 5:15p 6p Bingo *Big Ten Conf*	**16** Navy B-day Party 5p Dinner 6p Raffle 7p Karaoke *Big Ten Conf*	**17** 6p Harvest Moon Party *Big Ten Conf*
18 *Big Ten Conf*	**19**	**20** 5p Tacos Post & Aux Mtgs · Aux 5:30p	**21** 6p Queen of Hearts	**22** 6p Bingo *Southern Conf*	**23** 5p Dinner 6p Raffle 7p Karaoke *Southern Conf*	**24** Spaghetti Feed · TBA Warrior Bro. Trunk or Treat · TBA *Southern Conf*
25 Seahawks 5:20p *Southern Conf*	**26**	**27** 5p Tacos House Committee	**28** 6p Queen of Hearts	**29** 6p Bingo	**30** Riders cook dinner 5p Dinner 6p Raffle 7p Karaoke	**31** 2–4p Trunk or Treat Buddy Poppy Essays due

AT POST 969

Fri Raffle 6 pm: meat, booze, 50/50, Aux baskets
Red = Riders rides · Toy Run: bring toys!
Queen of Hearts Wed 6 pm, Post members
ABATE Oct 7, social 6, mtg 7 · **Riders** Oct 13, 6 pm
Post & Aux Meetings Oct 20 · Aux 5:30 pm
House Cmte Oct 13 & 27 · **Rec Park Cmte** Oct 8

NATIONAL (GRAY) · 8 AM

Jr Vice Training Oct 1–4 · Kansas City, MO (tentative)
NVS Rep Trainings Oct 4–9 · Annapolis, MD
Big Ten Conference Oct 15–18 · Kalamazoo, MI
Southern Conference Oct 22–25 · Mobile, AL

Canteen closed except special events · Celebration
Seahawks — Post open, bring a dish

THE 969 DISPATCH · OCTOBER 2026 · JUST FOR FUN

OCTOBER WORD SEARCH

Words run across, down and diagonally — never backwards. Answer key on the back!

T	A	C	O	S	L	D	Y	K	Y	E	N	N	G
U	M	G	R	D	G	T	N	J	V	S	I	J	V
R	G	P	B	B	J	W	R	T	N	B	I	G	N
K	P	R	I	D	E	R	S	R	A	W	V	H	P
A	P	U	B	K	E	P	O	U	U	C	E	A	I
R	T	O	M	I	Y	E	T	N	X	B	T	R	U
A	S	O	P	P	N	V	S	K	I	O	E	V	N
O	E	N	Y	P	K	G	D	O	L	F	R	E	J
K	A	S	A	R	Y	I	O	R	I	I	A	S	R
E	H	N	S	V	U	U	N	T	A	F	N	T	A
R	A	Y	M	L	Y	N	L	R	R	O	S	S	F
P	W	H	N	W	U	F	A	E	Y	G	P	D	F
G	K	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	W	H	L
L	S	R	M	C	N	T	P	T	K	A	U	G	E

- ☐ SEAHAWKS
- ☐ RAFFLE
- ☐ POPPY
- ☐ TRUNK OR TREAT
- ☐ TOY RUN
- ☐ BINGO
- ☐ KARAOKE
- ☐ RIDERS
- ☐ VETERANS
- ☐ AUXILIARY
- ☐ TACOS
- ☐ NAVY
- ☐ HARVEST
- ☐ BREAKFAST
- ☐ PUMPKIN

Finished? Bring it to Friday dinner and show it off — then pass it to a grandkid.

SUPPORT YOUR POST

Help Keep the Home Fires Burning

Every dollar supports our veterans, their families and our community programs right here in Tacoma. Scan to give online — it takes one minute.

CHAPLAIN · CARD DRIVE

Veterans Day Cards Due Nov. 6

Write a card for a veteran in the Orting Soldiers Home or a local nursing home. Drop finished cards at the Post by **Friday, Nov. 6**; we deliver them **Monday, Nov. 9**. A few kind words from a neighbor mean the world.

STAY CONNECTED

Like Us & Leave a Review

facebook.com/VFWPost969Auxiliary
Questions? adj@vfw969.org · auxiliary969wa@gmail.com

L	S	R	M	C	N	T	P	T	K	A	U	G	E
G	K	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	W	H	L
P	W	H	N	W	U	F	A	E	Y	G	P	D	F
R	A	Y	M	L	Y	N	L	R	R	O	S	S	F
E	H	N	S	V	U	U	N	T	A	F	N	T	A
K	A	S	A	R	Y	I	O	R	I	A	S	R	
O	E	N	Y	P	K	G	D	O	L	F	R	E	J
A	S	O	P	P	N	V	S	K	I	O	E	V	N
R	T	O	M	I	Y	E	T	N	X	B	T	R	U
A	P	U	B	K	E	P	O	U	U	G	E	A	I
K	P	R	I	D	E	R	S	A	W	V	H	P	
R	G	P	B	B	J	W	R	T	N	B	I	G	N
U	M	G	R	D	G	T	N	J	V	S	I	J	V
T	A	C	O	S	L	D	Y	K	Y	E	N	N	G

ANSWER KEY — NO PEEKING!