

AMERICAN LEGION



COMMANDER BOB'S CHRISTMAS REPORT



As we enter the Holiday Season, I reflect on all the great things the Post has done this past year, and thank everyone for your outstanding efforts and dedication in achieving them! We've increased support of our community by sending a number of young people to Boys' and Girls' State (two of our girls going on to Girls' Nation). We supported our local American Legion Baseball teams with funds and activities. We helped Mountain Lakes Bible Church with their spring clean-up and the National Guard picnic.

Donations were made to Newby-ginnings, the Lake City Playhouse's production of "A Veterans Salute in Song and Story." We supported several events at the Post Falls Veteran's Home, and various food and blood drives. Did biweekly distributions to Veterans of pastries from Pastry 'n More.

We attended American Legion's District One spring and winter meetings. We participated in the Memorial Day Celebration, the 4th of July Parade, and hosted the Veterans Day Celebration at McKuen Park. That day we presented Certificates and Challenge Coins to 28 Veterans at North Star Retirement Home to honor their service.

We initiated a project to obtain appropriate memorial headstones for two forgotten veterans (one from the Civil War and one from WWI). The Post partnered Hospice of North Idaho to conduct a End of Life Planning Symposium aimed at Veteran wives and families.

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Website: <https://www.alpost14cdaidaho.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/19mSHXcwYF/>

Mailing Address: 2215 N 7th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Post Contact Number: 208-699-6540

December 2025 & January 2026 Activities

Dec. 4, 2025: General Membership Meeting

Dec. 25, 2025: Christmas

Jan 8, 2026: General Membership Meeting

Jan 17, 2026: American Legion Post 14 High School Oratorical Contest (**We NEED volunteers for this event. If you can spare four hours please contact Jerry Staub @ 909-921-1340.**)

36 Years of Stealth, Dominance and Deterrence!

The 131st Bomb Wing, Missouri Air National Guard, celebrated 36 years of flight for the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber on July 17, 2025, with this highlight reel showcasing the aircraft's unique power and design. The B-2, maintained and operated by the total force team of the 131st Bomb Wing and their active duty counterpart, the 509th Bomb Wing, has provided global deterrence and engaged adversaries anytime, anywhere since it entered service. [Click here](#) for a short but inspiring video of this air-vehicle in action!





Our Post 14 Veterans Appreciation Dinner was held on November 15, 2025 and as expected, was a tremendous success! We had approximately 80+ people in attendance who enjoyed a fabulous meal, some comedy improvisation, fabulous live piano music during dinner, door and silent auction prizes as well as outstanding fellowship with fellow veterans and new Legionnaires who joined Post 14 at the dinner.

The American Legion Post 14 Executive Board and members would like to especially thank our volunteers and sponsors identified below who unselfishly supported our post, our veterans and our local community with their wonderful and thoughtful donations which made our Veterans Appreciation Dinner a success.

Pastry & More-CDA, Castaway Outfitters Company-CDA, Robinsons Confections-Hayden, The Home Depot-CDA, The Man Shop-CDA, Costco-CDA Warehouse, The Well-Read Moose-CDA, Armory Outpost-Hayden, Bombastic Brewing-Hayden and Best Western Hotels & Resorts-CDA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Senate 342 and House Resolution the Purple Heart Veterans Education Act would allow individuals awarded the Purple Heart on or after 9/11 to transfer benefits to family members, Under current law only those who have completed 6 years of active duty service can transfer post 9/11 benefits. This legislation would allow those who gave exceptional sacrifice and valor to transfer benefits to family members. Contact Rep Fulcher, Sen Risch, Sen Crapo about this legislation and ask them to support it.

Damon Darakjy, Legislative Officer

Veterans' Community swoops in to ensure soldiers' graves have military markers

"Coeur d'Alene American Legion Post 14 Adjutant Jerry Staub during an Oct. 30 interview discusses current efforts to install military markers on the gravesites of two veterans interred at Mica Peak Cemetery. The original markers at the resting places of the Civil War and World War I soldiers have gone missing or have been destroyed through time." For the complete article, click on the following link: <https://cdapress.com/news/2025/nov/09/mica-peak-soldiers-gravesites-need-military-markers/>



DEVIN WEEKS, Staff Writer | CDA Press November 9, 2025

Do you have a desire to support our veterans or help those who have served and need assistance? Are you new to our community and simply looking for a way to get involved and meet some good folks without any drama?

Please consider joining our brand new American Legion Post 14 Kootenai County Auxiliary chapter. Who are we? We are the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion. Some of us are veterans ourselves.

All you need to do is contact Jan who is our interim Auxiliary Organizational Leader at 208-699-6540 or click on [this link](#), complete the form and send it off to Jan at ida-holeghion14@gmail.com and if approved, we'll introduce you to some of the best friends you'll ever have! Annual dues are \$45/year.

Send any newsletter comments or suggestions to Ralph at exnavydiver@gmail.com

Post Officers

- Post Commander-Bob Smee
- Post Adjutant-Jerry Staub
- Post Office Manager-Jane Powell
- Post 1st Vice Commander-Shaun Swant
- Post 2nd Vice Commander-Pat Tatum
- Post Membership Officer-Joe Deacon
- Post Chaplain-David Bruyette
- Post Associate Chaplin-Bill Muck
- Post Finance Manager-Glen Wilson
- Post Historian-Jerry Staub
- Post Sergeant at Arms-Michael Rod
- Post Public Relations & Veterans Service Office -Damon Darakjy
- Post Webmaster, Social Media & Newsletter, Ralph Perry, Email: exnavydiver@gmail.com

Post 14 is more than just boring monthly meetings! It's been a BUSY year with LOTS of smiling faces at our raffle sales, membership drives, morning coffee & pastry get-togethers, 4th of July parades, National Guard Fall Festival, America 250 Activities and so much more! Life is not boring at American Legion Post 14....Come on down and try us out!



Newby-Ginnings of North Idaho Tragedy to Treasure

If you have not heard of Newby-Ginnings of North Idaho, it is a story of overwhelming tragedy and the love to overcome that tragedy by embarking on an inspiration to become a treasure for veterans, not only in this community, but in North Idaho and the surrounding states.

Theresa Hart's son, Nicholas Newby was tragically killed by a roadside bomb while deployed in Iraq in 2011. To fully understand this life altering event, we encourage you read the story of Newby-Ginnings at their webpage: <https://newbyginnings.org/our-story>

From their website, their “. . . mission is to provide resources, referrals and essential personal and household items to Veterans, Active Military and their families as well as families of our fallen heroes (Gold Star families) at absolutely no cost to them. All that is required is proof of military service, past or present, for the client or a household family member.”

This non-profit thrift store relies upon donations from the community. It is faithfully supported by various veteran's groups throughout North Idaho. Under Theresa's dedicated leadership and direction, Newby-Ginnings provides essential resources for those veterans who have sacrificed for our country. Veterans and their families can come there for basic household necessities, food, clothing, and some furniture, as well as peer support and referrals to other agencies that provide support to veterans. She is steadfast in her mission of honoring every individual who walks through their doors to see they are met with dignity, compassion, and unwavering support. They are greeted with a smile and respect. In the 10 years they have been open, Newby-Ginnings has served more than 6800 servicemen and women and Gold Star Families in our area and the surrounding states, from Montana, Cheney, Deer Park and beyond. They average about 150 visitors daily and they enroll about 10 new veterans a week. They are truly a treasure that has a positive impact on the lives of thousands of veterans and their families.

Post 14 has as part of their community service mission to support Newby-Ginnings financially and with volunteer hours. We encourage you to visit Newby-Ginnings and make it your donation destination. They are located at 570 S. Clearwater Loop, Unit A, in Post Falls, just West of the Outlet Mall. They have outgrown their current facility and have started a capital campaign to expand and better serve veterans and their families. We ask you to support this campaign as part of your community giving. You can find more information on their capital campaign at: <https://newbyginnings.networkforgood.com/projects/241775-a-new-building-for-newby-ginnings>

Theresa says on her webpage, “Like Alice through the looking glass, I unwillingly stepped into a strange new world without my son. I can never go back. So I will take this strength, that I didn't know that I had, and I will turn it into something remarkable.” Indeed she has. We salute her.

Editor's Note: If you'd like to make a donation to Newby-ginnings of North Idaho, Inc. or volunteer, please contact them at 208-610-6996. Newby-ginnings address is 570 S. Clearwater Loop, Unit A, Post Falls, ID. 83854. Their hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.



Commander Bob's Christmas Report (continued from page 1)

In conjunction with this we published a 161 page book that includes a Personal Affairs Organizer. The Post recently held an inaugural Dinner to honor local Veterans and community members.

As we wind down a very successful year, we set our sights on achieving an even more productive 2026! Thanks again to you all for your hard work and our success, and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Commander Bob

American Legion Post 14 High School Oratorical Competition

The American Legion National Oratorical Contest, a high school speech contest on the U.S. Constitution, awards \$203,500 in scholarships each year at the national contest. The contest is held in Hillsdale, Mich., on the campus of Hillsdale College, May 15-17, 2026. The contestants will present a rehearsed eight- to 10-minute oration on an aspect of the Constitution in front of judges, as well as a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic discourse — a phase of the Constitution selected from its Articles and Sections. Click on the picture to listen to our 2025 Champion's speech!



American Legion Kootenai Post 14 will be hosting our local Coeur d'Alene high school competition on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 2215 N 7th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID. This event is open to the public and local media (some restrictions apply). Come cheer your local students on as they strive to advance to a spot in the National Competition where they can win a top prize of a \$25,000.00 scholarship.

