



Post Contact Information

Website: <https://www.alpost14cdaida-ho.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

Upcoming Activities

Raffle Sale-Oct 11th Fred Myer, CDA

ANG Fall Festival, Oct.17th, Armory

A.L. District Mtg., Oct 19th, Rathdrum

Raffle Sale**-Oct 25th, Super One

Raffle Drawing-Nov 6, Post 14 General Membership Mtg., S&W 9mm pistol

Raffle Sale**-Nov 8th, Nintendo Switch 2

Veterans Day Ceremony-Nov 11th McKuen Park

NIC Basketball, Nov 13th, Free for Veterans

Veterans Dinner-Nov 15th, Mountain Lakes Church

Raffle Drawing-Dec 4th, Nintendo Switch 2

****Contact Janet Powell @ 208-659-3799 if you'd like to purchase raffle tickets.**

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Accepting the leadership from Damon has been an honor and a refreshing challenge. I am amazed at the commitment and skill level of the staff and membership. Our vision is to create a superior Post through recruitment, education, meaningful meetings & service projects, and further emphasis on our Legion programs. We hope to foster communication and cooperation among all the Veteran organizations in the area. We are in the process of again chartering an Auxiliary. The Post published a 15-chapter, 167-page book on End-of Life Planning. It sells for \$10 and is hoped to be a continuing fundraiser. Bob Smee

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 Manager-Ralph Perry



Veteran Resource Symposium a Huge Hit!

Hosted by Hospice of North Idaho, and jointly organized by them, American Legion Post 14, the VFW Auxiliary, A.L. Auxiliary, Marine Corps League Auxiliary and others, the Veteran Resource Symposium was held September 25, 2025, and it was a rousing success. Attended by almost 200 veterans, spouses, and caregivers, the event covered a variety of topics crucial for end-of-life planning. The original event was planned only for a morning session, but due to popular demand, a second session was added for the afternoon to accommodate all interested parties. Post 14 Commander, Bob Smee, one of the event's organizers, was very pleased with the attendance and positive comments by many of the attendees, and is looking forward to an encore event next year as well.

Years Apart, In Great Wars They Fought

It recently came to our attention at American Legion Post 14 of Coeur d'Alene that there are two veterans interred in a nearby cemetery who served our country many years ago, but neither has an appropriate, permanent gravestone that reflects and honors their service to our country. One veteran, Joseph Alexander Phillips, served in the Civil War, and the other, Elmer Jess, served in France during World War I. The wrinkle is, that these two veterans are interred in a small rural cemetery near Rock-



ford, Washington about 4 miles outside of Idaho, and outside of the normal purview of our jurisdiction in Kootenai County. Since it appears that there is no American Legion post nearby, we have decided to take the necessary steps to insure that these two veterans are provided with gravestones to honor their service to our country. Stay tuned for updates as we proceed to correct this unfortunate oversight!

America 250 Celebration



American Legion Post 14 members celebrated America 250 activities at the Idaho State Veterans Home Post Falls on Saturday, September 20th with Idaho State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth and JD Darakjy, Legislative and Communications Director for the Idaho State Treasurer.



American Legion Honors our Fallen

"We Honor Our Fallen"

Legionnaire Ralph Perry from Coeur d'Alene's Post 14 who is also a member of the Spokane Angus Scott Pipe Band recently participated in memorial services for our fallen firefighters; Coeur d'Alene Battalion Chief John Morrison and Battalion Chief Frank Harwood of the Kootenai County Fire and Rescue. [Click here to view video](#)

Over 150 pipers and drummers converged on Coeur d'Alene from all over the United States and Canada on July 9, 2025 to show solidarity, compassion and respect for our fallen officers, their families and our community members.

Bagpipes have been played as a tribute to fallen firefighters and first responders since the 1800s, a tradition began by Scottish and Irish immigrants who often performed dangerous jobs.





Commissary Shopping Eligibility for Veterans

The Department of Defense expanded commissary shopping privileges in the U.S. effective 1 January 2020 as part of the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, included in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. This expansion adds to the existing authorized shopper list [here](#).

Follow these easy steps to verify Commissary eligibility before you shop:

1. Examine your Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), it must show either:

- Service connected
- Medal of Honor
- Purple Heart recipient status
- Former prisoner of war (POW)

NOTE: Ensure that the expiration date is current

Eligible Veterans who do not have a VHIC, as well as eligible caregivers, will still need to provide a copy of their VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A to show eligibility at the commissary.

2. Update if Necessary: If any condition is not met, contact **VA Healthcare at 877-222-8387** to request an updated card.

3. Check Local Requirements: Verify entry requirements with your local installation.

Eligible disabled veterans and their caregivers should go to their installation visitor center to enroll for recurring access. There, they must perform the following actions to gain installation access:

- *Present an acceptable credential (VHIC, REAL ID or VA-issued credentials as referenced above) to establish identity*
- *Submit to an on-the-spot criminal record and terrorism check*
- *Go through an electronic verification process to confirm on-installation benefits eligibility. If the reason for the base visit is for health care, and the DOD installation doesn't have a commissary, exchange, or authorized MWR service, then the visitor must provide proof of their appointment.*

Once visitors enroll their VHIC or REAL ID for recurring access, they will be able to go directly to the installation gate and present the same credentials to gain access for future visits. Enrollment is typically valid for one to three years, or one year after the last installation visit. If a patron's VHIC or REAL ID expires, they must reenroll with their new cards.



A Brief History of our POW/MIA Flag **Jerry L Staub, Post Adjutant/Historian**

The POW/MIA flag was created for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War when Mary Hoff, wife of missing in action (MIA) Lt. Commander Michael Hoff U.S.N., proposed the creation of a symbol for American prisoners of war (POW) and those who are MIA. Evelyn Grubb, National League of Families national coordinator, and wife of a POW, oversaw its development and also championed its widespread acceptance and use by the U.S. federal government, local governments, and civilian organizations across the United States.

The POW/MIA flag was flown over the White House for the first time in September 1982. On August 10, 1990, Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, recognizing the National League of Families POW/MIA flag and designating it "as a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation." Beyond Southeast Asia, it is now a symbol for POW/MIAs from all U.S. wars.

On November 7, 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law, requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown on certain federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol Building, on all days the U.S. flag is flown. The flag may be seen as implying that personnel listed as MIA may in fact be held captive. (continued)

However, the official, bipartisan, U.S. federal government position is that there is "no compelling evidence that proves that any American remains alive in captivity in Southeast Asia." As of October 2020, 1,585 Americans remained unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, of which 1,007 were classified as further pursuit, 488 as no further pursuit and 90 as deferred.

The National POW/MIA Flag Act ensures that the POW/MIA Flag is displayed whenever the U.S. flag is displayed at the following locations: The U.S. Capitol, the White House, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, every national cemetery, the buildings containing the official offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the office of the Director of the Selective Service System, each major military installation, each Department of Veterans Affairs & Veterans Benefits Administration offices, and each office of the United States Postal Service.

Post 14's Veteran's Fall Dinner

**November 15, 2025, from 5:30pm to
8:15pm**

To Honor All Post Members for their volunteer efforts and Members of Mountain Lakes Church for their kind Assistance during the past year.

Registration 5:30 – 6:00

Buffet Dinner w/piano music 6:00 – 7:00

Entertainment, Comedy Improv 7:00 – 7:30

Recognition 7:30 – 8:00

50/50 Drawing & Silent Auction 8:00 – 8:15

Adjournment 8:15

Cuisine: Italian Dinner supplied by Tomato

Street/Desert supplies by Pastry 'n More

Main course: Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Lasagna (Meat sauce and vegetarian), Pasta Primavera

Drinks & Desert: Cake – Pastry 'n More, Iced Tea and Lemonade

Please RSVP to Janet Powell by October 31, 2025 at 208-659-3799

Historic Legion Gathering on Capitol Hill

Update from Legislative Coordinator American Legion Post 14 – Damon Darakjy

“I encourage you to contact Sen Risch, Sen Crapo and Rep Fulcher to support the Love Lives On Act (S. 410 and H.R. 1004), to ensure that surviving military spouses can remarry at any age without losing the benefits they have rightfully earned.

Under current law, surviving spouses who remarry before age 55 are stripped of their benefits—an outdated penalty that forces many to choose between financial stability and a second chance at love and companionship.

These spouses, many of whom lost their loved ones due to combat, service-related illnesses, or suicide, often have children that they must now raise alone.

By co-sponsoring this bipartisan legislation, you can help end this unjust penalty and provide surviving spouses with the stability they need and deserve. I ask that you stand with these families and urge your colleagues to do the same and support the Love Lives On Act.”

To **contact your senator** about the Love Lives On Act (S.410 and H.R.1004), you can call, email, or write them using the contact information on their official website, which can be found via the [U.S. Senate website](#).

State your support for the Love Lives On Act: Clearly state that you are a constituent and you are calling/writing to express your support for S. 410 / H.R. 1004. **Explain the bill's importance:** You should ask them to cosponsor and support the bill, which removes the age requirement (previously 57, then lowered to 55) allowing surviving spouses to remarry without losing certain military benefits, such as the Dependency and Indemnification Compensation (DIC) and the Survivor Benefit Plan. Tell them that this legislation will enable surviving spouses to rebuild their lives without fear of losing the financial stability that was earned by their loved one's sacrifice.



Photo by Hilary Ott/The American Legion