



Next Prom
February 4, 2019 @6:30pm



Next Cheminot
February 19, 2019 @ 6:30pm



Voiture 99 Vancouver, WA

BOXCAR BULLETIN

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January 2019

Chef de Gare's Corner

Morris Giesler

The last part of WHAT IS A VETERAN ? You may need to line up the January 2019 Boxcar Bulletin with this one. The rest of the story.

Or would you want a Soldier- his home, his country, his kin, Just a common Soldier, Who would fight until the end? He was just a common Soldier and his ranks are growing thin, but his presence should remind us we may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we find the Soldier's part is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start. If we cannot do him honor while he's here then at least praise the Veteran and give homage at the end of their days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say: OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.

Pass On The Patriotism! YOU can make a difference.

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable, To My Country for an amount "up to and including the veteran's life."

That is Honor, and there are way

too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Veterans who have gone before, and upon La Societe, through Him, who said:

Greater love than hath no Veteran than this, that a Veteran lay down his life for his friends.'

The rest of the Story of WHAT IS A VETERAN

Morris E. Giesler

Chef de Gare

Correspondants Notes

March is right around the corner, and with its arrival, our Chef de Gare will be required to appoint a Nominating Committee Chairperson. The Chairpersons job will be to seek out, identify, convince, cajole and/or otherwise find qualified Voyageurs to fill the positions needed to guide the Voiture through the next (2019-2020) membership year. This in and of itself is no small task. These positions vary in degree of complexity, but in general do not require any complicated training to complete. The biggest factor is the desire to participate and take an active part in our Voiture. What follows is a very brief description of the positions.

* = an elected position. # = an appointed position.

Chef de Gare*: Is commander and responsible for the overall operation and success of the Voiture. Conducts Promenades, Cheminots and Wrecks. Is responsible for the Voitures possessions and enforcement of its Constitution and By-Laws.

Chef de Train*: Understudy to the Chef de Gare. Primary concern is the internal operation of the Voiture and membership goals.

Garde de la Port*: Is stationed at the door of the meeting place and makes sure that all who enter are current members, or guests, have a membership card and know the password.

Correspondant*: Is the secretary of the Voiture and keeps an accurate record of all Promenades, Cheminots and Special meetings communicating these to the Voiture as necessary. Answers and generates correspondence in the name of the Voiture. Maintains current listings and status of all Voyageurs in good standing.

Commissaire Intendent*: Is responsible for the collection and distribution of all dues, fees and other monies. Makes periodic

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Chateau Schedule for February 2019

Members and guests allowed on Friday for breakfast.

Saturday the Chateau is open to voyageurs and guests.

Thursday morning coffee & doughnuts at the Chateau at 8:30am.- 10:00am

Chateau (360)574-3872

Voiture 99 Meeting Reminders:
Prom 2/4/19
Cheminot 2/19/19

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am	² Chateau Open 12-7pm Big Money Bingo 6:30p
³	⁴ PROM	⁵ BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar	⁶	⁷ Coffee & Donuts 8:30 -10:00am	⁸ Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am CMAC	⁹ Chateau Open 12-7pm Ham Radio Mtg. 10:30am
¹⁰	¹¹	¹² BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar	¹³ HDSCB Mtg 11:30am	¹⁴ Coffee & Donuts 8:30 -10:00am MOAA. 9:00am	¹⁵ Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am	¹⁶ Chateau Open 12-7pm WRECK 10:00am
¹⁷	¹⁸ S.A.L.T. Meeting 11am, Boxcar	¹⁹ BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar CHEMINOT	²⁰ Korean War Veterans 9am Boxcar	²¹ Coffee & Donuts 8:30 -10:00am MOAA. 11:00am Bingo @VanVA CLC630-7:30PM	²² Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am CMAC	²³ Chateau Open 12-7pm Mothers Group 11:00am
²⁴	²⁵ Ombudsman Volunteer Meeting 9am, Boxcar	²⁶ BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar	²⁷	²⁸ Coffee & Donuts 8:30 -10:00am		

Chateau Lounge is open Saturday, 12-7pm---Grill is open 12-3pm for lunch

reports on the financial status of the Voiture. Maintains a financial record and history of all transactions.

Lampiest #: The garde of the outer door of the meeting place. Assists and may take the place of the Garde de la Port.

Commis Voyageur #: Is responsible for the care of the Colors. On those occasions when called upon, the Commis Voyageur advances and retires the Colors at various ceremonies.

Conducteur #: Calls the Voyageurs to attention and the salute whenever the Colors are advanced or retired. Serves as officer-in-charge at all formal and active wrecks working in conjunction with the Directeur of Rituals.

Aumonier #: Serves as the Voitures Chaplain and as such offers prayers at all occasions when appropriate and attends to the spiritual needs of the members.

Cheminot*: The Cheminot is the organizations equivalent of its Board of Directors, or Executive Committee. It is responsible for the operational and financial programs established and/or implemented by the Voiture. It reviews and/or makes policy and recommendations to the Promenade.

Sous#: An assistant (understudy) to an elected or appointed position in the Voiture. Able to stand-in if the primary is not available.

Directeur#: A Voyageur who

takes responsibility for one of the many programs sponsored by the Voiture. Coordinates advertising and fundraising activities for the program and is responsible for distribution of funds to support the program.

Americanism

Greetings Voyageurs,

Valentine's day is right around the corner, but do you actually know the origin of the holiday?

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion. Infoplease.com

However you decide to celebrate the holiday have a great one! Please don't forget to turn in your service hours.

With fraternal love,
The Americanism Committee

VAVS

For VA bingo on 27 Dec we served 13 patients gave out \$100.00 in prizes with 11 volunteers.

John Landahl

La Femmes

The La Femmes Cabane 99 Dames are busy this month working on projects for Springtime Fundraising. We have a Book Sale Planned for Friday and Saturday, March 15th and 16th and will be setting it up on March 14th. If you have books you would like to donate to our program we will be accepting them on Thursday, March 14th. Funds from our Book Sale will benefit 40 et 8 Programs. Talk to your friends when they start their spring cleaning and see if they would like to donate books to help benefit our veterans.

We are still collecting non-perishable items for the Share House programs, the barrels are in the entryway as you come into the chateau. The food for unaccompanied youth backpack program is still a great need.

The Grande Petite Prom will be held here on March 22nd & 23rd, the La Femmes will be serving lunch on Saturday and we are also planning a silent auction. Let's all work together to make this a successful Grande.

Mary Snyder



HISTORIAN: Did you fill out your 40 & 8 story for the 2019 history book? You can put them in the folder in the back of the room or bring them to a meeting. I have been ill and absent, however, am still working on this project. Dixie

MARKETING: We will have a meeting as soon as I am well enough to schedule one. There are two projects we need to discuss:
1. Putting together the program tri-fold with Grant Edwards picture on cover, buttons with his photo on them and 2. Tickets for the quilt that John Landahl donated for the cause. We need to decide how to spend that money. We have to remember we are a marketing committee and not direct services. All ideas are welcome.
Dixie

POW/MIA

Wow!!! The month of February has come and the holiday season has already past. Where has the time gone? What a great season. Lots of rain (normal), and now plenty of snow!

This year at National, I was selected to become the Sous Directeur POW/MIA North West. What an honor! I was also awarded the POW/MIA Voyager Militaire for the second year in a row. WOW!!! It has been a good season for the Nationwide POW/MIA Scholarship Program. I have sold/mailed mailed out all but 20 of the 2019 pins from my supply. Thank you for your support, both members and to our ever supportive La Femmes!! Come see me at the Prom or Cheminot if you have not received your 2019 pin.

In the future, I will be attending the Great Western in Lebanon, Oregon (April 4-7). In May I am planning to go to the Memorial Day celebration in Arlington, Virginia, and in June to attend our Grand Prom here in Washington.

We should be ever mindful of our goals:

1. Merchandise Sales
2. Raising awareness to the POW/MIA Scholarship Program
3. Consolidated Reports
4. POW/MIA pin design

Sincerely,

Steve Slegers

Voiture 99 Directeur POW/MIA
Grand du Washington Directeur
POW/MIA
Sous National Directeur POW/MIA
North West

2019 Great Western States Promenade April 5-8, 2019

For info and to Register:
<http://www.voiture-99.com/great-western-promenade-2019/>



Grande du South Carolina
invites you to attend the
100th Promenade &
56th Rendezvous Nationale
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
September 10-14, 2019

Register here:
<http://www.voiture-99.com/100th-promenade-56th-rendezvous-nationale/>

Honoring a Hero

Last month my wife and I drove up to Shelton, WA to witness the presentation of the keys to a brand new home to a severely injured veteran and his wife. The home was provided through an organization called Homes For Our Troops. Their mission is to build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.

HFOT was started in 2004 by a Massachusetts general contractor who offered to build a Massachusetts Army National Guard Soldier a specially adapted custom home. The Soldier, who had been injured in Iraq, agreed to have him build the home on the condition he do the same for other injured Veterans.

They are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by IRS regulations.

The adaptations include wider halls and doorways; automatic door openers; roll-under sinks, stove tops, and counters; pull-

down shelving; backup house generator; sliding windows; roll in shower with digital temperature control; and a master bedroom closet that is a steel reinforced concrete storm room built to FEMA standards.

A Veteran must be approved for the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) benefits by the Veterans

Administration. These benefits are provided to Veterans with severe

physical injuries, which may include one or more amputations, full or partial paralysis, and severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

HFOT places a 10 year lien on the home. This protects the Veteran from losing the home due to foreclosure and safeguards our donors' investments in the program; it also provides a period of time for the family to become more financially stable. Beginning in year six, the Veteran accrues 20 percent equity per year until he/she has full equity after 10 years in the home.

On Oct. 15, 2011, during his second deployment with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Marine Sergeant Franklin was returning from a night observation post when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) in Sangin, Afghanistan. The blast resulted in the loss of both his legs and two fingers on his right hand.

Sgt Franklin's squad acted quickly to prep him to be evacuated, applying tourniquets and administering morphine. He was transferred from the battlefield to



From right to left: Jon Schumacher, Jereme Sawyer (we are building his home in Tenino, WA), Del and Milan Franklin (standing in center), Alex and Kim Hussey (finished their home in Washougal, WA last May), and Dan Dudek (he is still on active duty at JBLM, but will be joining HFOT once he retires; he plans to stay in Washington).

Milan and Del Franklin received the keys to their new custom home amidst over 400 supporters and a flagline that reached down most of their driveway. I was proud to be a part of that flagline provided by the Patriot Guard Riders.

Milan Franklin joined the Marines because he felt like he needed to do something to protect and defend his country.

the hospital in under 20 minutes.

Once back in the United States, Milan was treated at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego and retired from the Marines in September 2013.

Milan received a service dog during his recovery, which got him interested in training service dogs. It also led him to meeting his wife, Delaree, who was also a dog

trainer. The couple got engaged and married in 2018 on the land of what is now their specially adapted custom Homes For Our Troops home in Shelton, Wash.

Milan enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, hunting, and camping. He is also musically inclined – he grew up playing drums, and took up playing the guitar after his injury. Both Milan and Delaree have taken up drawing and started pursuing bachelor's degrees in art the summer of 2018.

Though Milan now spends much of his time helping others, he previously faced obstacles of his own. In the years following his injury, he dealt with living in inaccessible homes. Not having a bathroom or kitchen wide enough for his wheelchair made everyday tasks like brushing his teeth or cooking a challenge. It was not until Milan received his HFOT home in 2019 that he finally had a place where he could rest and recover comfortably. The wide doorways and roll in shower allows Milan to do everyday tasks easily, opening up more time to pursue his goals.

Milan says he cannot find the words to express his gratitude toward HFOT's donors, supporters, and volunteers. "It is truly incredible to come home after everything I've been through and see firsthand how much the United States as a country supports our Veterans," he says. "Receiving this home means the world to me. I am finally able to breathe and feel at home."

Alex Hussey, Local Hero



Alex joined the military in 2010, during his senior year of high school. He had always knew he was going to join the army, even as a junior in high school he knew he would serve his country. As soon as he graduated high school he went to basic training in Ft. Benning Georgia to train to be a paratrooper. after basic graduation he was stationed at Ft. Bragg north Carolina as part of the 82nd airborne division.

While stationed at Ft. Bragg he reconnected with his old classmate from high school who lived back home in Oregon and they began dating in 2011.

In March of 2012 Alex was deployed to Kandahar Afghanistan. Kim and Alex had talked of getting married when he returned home and Kim had even planned to move to North Carolina to live with him as soon as he returned, but six months into

his deployment on August 7th 2012, Alex stepped on an IED. (improvised explosive device) Immediately after the blast he lost both legs; his left hand, fractured many bones and was diagnosed with a severe traumatic brain injury. He had a closed head injury, but his brain swelled causing him to lose oxygen to his brain. He had a drain inside his skull for two weeks to relieve the pressure. Kim and his parents were asked to come to his bedside in Germany. They didn't know he was going to survive. They waited at his bedside

for two weeks before he was finally stable enough to return to the states. He was then sent to Walter reed in Maryland and spent two months getting many surgeries on his limbs. At this hospital they were told he was in a comatose state and he would then be sent to Palo alto California to be part of an emerging conciseness protocol to get him out of the coma. Six months later he finally came out of his comatose state and had to learn how to talk again. He was in a lot of pain, and he was very disoriented, but he pulled through and got to the point where he could leave the hospital. Next they sent him to southern California to live in a rehab center for brain injury patients where he spent two years getting physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy almost every day. Two years after his injury he was able to eat solid food again for the first time.

In 2013 he was finally well enough to propose to Kim again and they were married in Coronado, right by the sea. They had a small wedding that was quiet and beautiful, committed to his recovery together.

He was finally able to return home to Oregon in 2015. They paid out of pocket to have his parents home equipped with a stair lift and a roll in shower so he could live with them until he got a home of his own.

Alex had to be in one room almost the entire time since the house was not entirely accessible to him.

In May of 2018 Alex and Kim received the keys to a specially adapted home from Homes For Our Troops in .

HFOT gives severely injured veterans like Alex a mortgage

free home designed to meet their needs. our home is completely accessible with wide doorways, and halls, roll in shower, a lift in the ceiling that can carry Alex from the bedroom to the bathroom with ease.

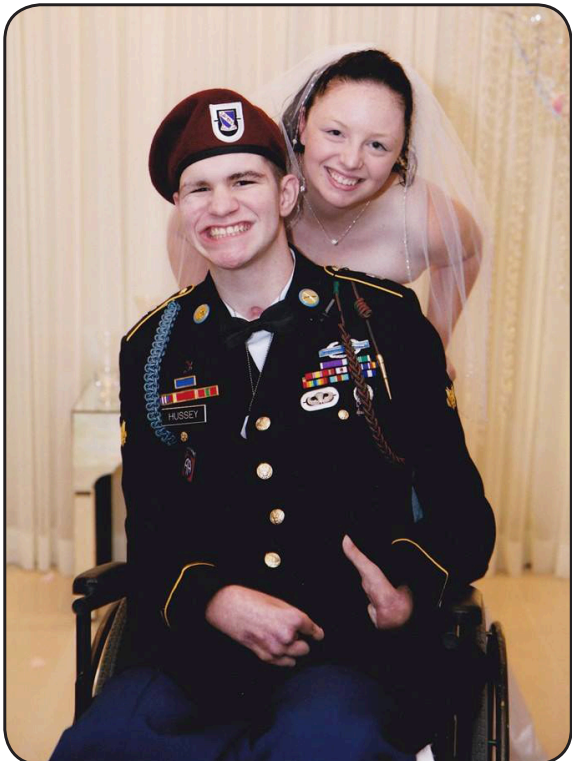
Since moving into their home six months ago, Alex's whole demeanor has changed. He is more motivated to become independent. He helps with laundry, takes his own plate to the sink and can even roll his wheelchair into any room in the house with little difficulty. He is learning how to get around and is so excited to see what he can do. we even have voice activation set up to our lights and fans, Alec can independently turn the lights on which make him very happy. Alex hopes to have a horse someday and HFOT made sure to find a plot of land with five acres so that dream can become a reality.

HFOTwants to support their future and let Alex and Kim know that they support Alex as he recovers from his injuries.

Alex and Kim are also thinking of starting a family now that we have home where Alex can be a part of his child's life with no limitations.

Both Alex and Kim are so thankful for HFOT and the community they live in for everything HFOT has done to help them set up their new life.

Please visit HFOT on their website: www.hfotusa.org



Alex & Kim's house.



Top: Alex on his porch swing.