American Legion Seeks to Revitalize Aberdeen Post #5

Local News

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Wartime veterans of Aberdeen, WA. The American Legion is looking to expand an already existing outlet to interface with, and to serve, the community. The American Legion, the nations largest veterans organization, is inviting all wartime era veterans in the area to join them in revitalizing The American Legion Aberdeen Post #5.

Officers and staff members of the Indianapolis-based American Legion National Headquarters and Washington State American Legion Headquarters will be in town Wednesday, April 21 through Thursday April 22nd.

A Welcome Home ceremony for all veterans, present and past, will be held at 112 West 1st Street, Aberdeen, WA 98520 on Thursday, April 22nd from 5 to 7pm. Membership and veterans information staff will be available at that location on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 5pm to 7pm. Veterans with questions may call Larry Garnish at 360-701-5921.

In Keeping with the almost 90-year tradition of The American Legion, the newly reformed American Legion post in Aberdeen, Washington will focus on community service and assistance to veterans. The scope and nature of the posts community service will be determined by its members and inputs from local civic and community officials.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans benefits, children & youth, patriotic American values, a strong national defense and quality-of-life issues for those serving in todays armed forces.

The organization, which spearheaded the original GI Bill, has been advocating reform of the veterans health care system under its GI Bill of Health. Creation of the federal forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as the agencys ascent to cabinet-level status is due in part to The American Legions advocacy. The American Legion was also instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Home Loan, veterans hiring preference and just compensation to veterans suffering from illnesses related to their military service, including those whose ailments stem from exposure to Agent Orange and mysterious Persian Gulf origins.

Equally aggressive are The American Legions efforts to instill values in young people through numerous programs, including American Legion Boys State, American Legion Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, the National High School Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball, Teenage Suicide Prevention, Child Health and a McGruff Safe Kids Program. The American Legion has supported Scouting since 1919. Many American Legion posts also support Junior ROTC high school units, fund-raising for handicapped children, the Childrens Miracle Network and partnerships with other nonprofit organizations such as Special Olympics.