

Notes of May 28<sup>th</sup> luncheon, gathering and meetings in Omak WA.

Mr. John Lee, Director of WDVA opened the luncheon discussion by stating the recognized needs of our Veteran population. Emphasis is being placed on the younger and newer Veterans of the Gulf war, OIF and OEF.

With John's introduction of an honored guest; our Washington State's "First Gentleman" Mr. Mike Gregorie or First Mike as he prefers to be called! One could feel as he spoke, the interest and compassion conveyed; not only being his own but that also of his wife, Our Governor of this State; for the well being of our Veterans.

Unknown too many, acknowledged by just a few, yet appreciated by all; is that First Mike attends all the funerals of our KIA's. What more needs to be said! No D or R involved

There were many Service providers in attendance all getting the opportunity to introduce themselves and share personal contact information. This helped lay the groundwork for expanding this gathering into a viable Okanogan Task Force. The primary concern being that the available benefits are delivered to our Veterans in a timely and efficient manner.

It is heartwarming to hear of the programs in place to assist our younger Veterans as they return home and transition to civilian life. There is also a deeper good feeling of knowing that; "As Veterans" and communities, we will be there for them this time around!

Dale White was able to arrange a private meeting with concerned and interested persons at the Okanogan County Commissioners hearing room to further discuss our Legacy. County Commissioner Mary Lou Peterson had attended the luncheon and was happy to be able to provide the space and time for talks.

First Mike, John Lee, Dennis Clark, Commissioners Peterson and Lampe, Dale White, Michael Stewart and Don Cates of the OVB met for about 20 minutes discussing various funding potentials or the lack thereof. Not getting exactly the response we wanted, yet getting our message across to them; we then drove up to Tonasket to view the legacy site. Although overgrown with weeds, the project area is laid out well enough that we were able to walk them through the site for a better feel of what we are doing.

First Mike and company must have liked what they saw and heard because by fast forwarding one week to June 5th, we have received news that with First Mike going and speaking with the Emblem fund director our USAFL project is to receive a \$3000.00 grant. Due Soonest!

Michael Stewart  
Treasurer USAFL