

Notes from meeting with Senator Murray's Representatives - May 8th 2008

It was once again a pleasure to visit with Senator Patty Murray's Eastern District representatives Ms. Judy Olson and Ms. Danielle Joesten.

Representing the USAFL at the luncheon were: Ted Huber, President Virgil Palmer, Ralph Longanecker, Dale White and myself Michael Stewart.

Ms. Olson noted and made mention of the visible community support that the Legacy project has developed throughout the area. Enough so, that pictures of the site progress are taken at different times and forwarded to other interested parties in Olympia.

There was also much discussion of the evolution of the legacy portion of our memorial concerning the providing of services for access to benefits for our past, present and future veteran population.

There were more ongoing talks of getting the VA bus to stop in Tonasket at the USAFL site as a staging area to reach our local Veteran population that continues to grow. We pointed out that through the combined compensation and pension \$ benefits that are received via our county Veterans numbers; we add around \$8 million dollars to the gross income generated in our area.

Ms. Olson noted that the recent past, director of the Walla Walla VA hospital is becoming the new director of the Spokane VA Hospital. The new director is known for her ability to cut through the red tape and speed up the process of delivery of benefits from the hospital to its Veteran patients. With that as a thought; Any Veteran that may have had an issue with the Spokane VA facility; please get in touch with me with the remembered details so that we can relay concerns up the chain of responsibility. Ms. Joesten can be of assistance helping Veterans with discharge issues; also, awards and decorations inquiries.

On a windy, brisk day we gave a short tour of the USAFL site! Virgil brought them up to speed as to our present construction phase and what is planned. Pointing out the recent septic tanks in the ground and the forms for the wall plaque area in place. Great job being done by all with a big thanks to Bob Thompson and George Frank. With this continued interaction at our state government levels; Funding may yet come our way. Virgil briefed the two visitors on the beautiful flag quilt raffle that we have going on, and of course we all forgot to ask them if they wanted tickets.

Michael Stewart
Treasurer USAFL