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Cashmere disabled veteran Hoffman receives 'Global' car care for van from caring citizens

Whether by kismet or serendipity, small miracles happen

By GARY BÉGIN

WENATCHEE – On Wednesday, August 1 Wenatchee area lawyer Robert Hunter was invited by this reporter to a ceremony at the Wenatchee Convention Center to honor a man who was “blown up” and seriously injured during the Vietnam War’s 1968 “year of the Tet Offensive.”

That man, former Army machine gunner Ron Hoffman of Cashmere, never received the Purple Heart he earned from being wounded in combat, although it was listed on his official military records (DD214). Local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Tony Sandoval decided he could right that wrong and asked the sponsors of the 3rd Annual “Serving Those Who Served” Conference to help facilitate that last minute project.

The two-day conference is hosted annually by the Washington State of Veteran Affairs and is mainly meant to provide continuing education for veteran “providers” such as VSO’s and non-profit organizations as well as the many military-themed groups as

the American Legion, but allowances were made for this special ceremony. During the proceedings, both sad and joyous, witnessed by an audience of more than 200, Hoffman was asked if there was anything he wanted to say and he said “It’s about time.” Then he was asked if there was anything he needed and he answered, “Yea, I need a new alternator for my van.”

When Hunter, sitting at a table in the back of the room, heard that need, almost a plea, directly from Hoffman’s mouth, he decided to do the right thing and buy him the alternator. Hunter then contacted Brian Thorpe, owner of Global Car Care in Wenatchee and asked if Brian would also like to help. Thorpe agreed that his shop would do the labor for free and one week later Wednesday, August 8 the group came together and made the deal happen.

Both Thorpe and Hunter agreed, “Mr. Hoffman’s comments struck a chord with us. It is a crying pity that it took this long for the government to recognize his sacrifice.”

And with that, another thank you has finally been said to another Vietnam War veteran, another human need fulfilled by a caring community.

If you know of any veterans in need of social services, food, shelter, health care, mental health counseling or “just” companionship, contact American Legion Post #10 VSO John Gill at 509-670-7896 or Chelan County VSO Tony Sandoval - 509-664-6801 for more information.

You can also call NCW Media Managing Editor Gary Bégin at 509-571-5302.



PHOTOS BY GARY BÉGIN/NCW MEDIA.
Pictured above is, from left, Wenatchee area Lawyer Robert Hunter, recent Purple Heart award recipient Ron Hoffman, his brother, fellow Vietnam War veteran and Cashmere resident Tom Gray behind him and Brian Thorpe of Global Car Care of Wenatchee.



Cashmere Library Summer Reading Program

It’s been a great Summer full of Reading and awesome events. Thank you for supporting Cashmere Library’s Summer Reading Program and the Cashmere Community. The following young readers earned these rewards:



Kennedy Walgren picks Chewbacca Story.



Luke Fox picks Staxis Game.



Chira Cohen picks Winner book trio.



Scarlett Holland picks Mo Willems Book set.



Jackson Lowers pick Little Golden Bookset.



Naomi Lambert picks Bobbsey Twins Book Set.



Maddy Kriegel picks Teen book set.



Dora Kelzenberg picks Bakery gift certificate.

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