

# PSO BLUEBILL FLYER

**March 2022**



## PSO Bluebill Newsletter

**Serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties**

### **A Loving Tribute to Myron Vogt**

**By Karen Griffith**

They say that no one is irreplaceable, but there are many in our area that would argue that point. There is a big hole where Myron Vogt stood and served our community. Those who knew and worked with him are generous in their praise of the life he lived.



Ken Winter, who was Chairman of the Bluebills a few years after Myron was, talks of the early days when he would accompany Myron over to Seattle to the meetings of all four of the Bluebill groups at South Park near Boeing field. He said that Myron listened to what the other three groups were doing, then he would get up and “shock” the group with all the activities that the Olympic Bluebills were doing – all the activities that were designed to keep people in their homes. When he was asked by the others, “Why are you doing all that?” he would tell them: “That’s what we are here for!” Myron had his way and he was going to get things done.

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Ken said that he so enjoyed working along-side Myron. One time, the Girl Scouts in Port Townsend needed help with the old house that they used to meet in – the chimney was falling down and the plumbing was wonky. Ken brought his plumbing tools and began repairing the plumbing, and Myron started fixing the bricks on the chimney! Ken said that he and Myron spent a lot of time in the car going back and forth and had great conversations about their kids. The two of them had a way of working together that they each knew what the other was doing and it always went so smoothly.

Jim Mueller would go out with Myron’s crew and help build ramps. Myron confided to Jim once that he always liked to get as much work out of the crews as he could in the morning because after lunch, “they weren’t worth a damn.” This of course was often owing to the crew stopping for lunch at a certain Mexican restaurant in the area and having a beer. Myron wasn’t hesitant to tell a crew member when they messed up. Jim would only say that he was “gruff.” Jim also loved working with Myron.



Robert Chanpong met Myron on the golf course as many others did in early 2016. They talked about where they each had lived and Myron had visited some of the same places Robert had been. Robert was just starting to play golf but Myron was always patient with this rookie on the course. One morning Myron said to him,

“Meet me at the Bay Club at 8 a.m.” Robert thought he was going to explain the Bluebills to him and try to recruit him. When Robert got to the Bay Club, Myron simply said to him, “Robert, get in the van.” Myron drove to a house where a couple of grab bars needed to be installed. “Bring my tool bag,” Myron said. Robert did and handed Myron the specific tools while the first grab bar was installed. Myron then turned to Robert and said, “It’s your turn!” Under Myron’s gaze, Robert correctly installed the second grab bar. Thus began Robert’s years of working with the Builders.

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Then in 2021 when Myron was going through his second round of chemo, he said to him, “Well, Robert, I’m going to have to leave my job [as builder chair]. I wonder who will take it.” And he looked me right in the eye with that “Myron” smile. “And now,” Robert said, “I’m the builder chair.” Myron was not “wordy” but he was very communicative. That smile and a wink could work wonders. Robert said that Myron rekindled a purpose in his own life to help others. Myron had that ability to let us understand: “You can help other people.”

Myron just had a way of spotting people who could be valuable to the Bluebills. Cal Williams lived on Myron’s street and for the seven years before Cal’s retirement, he watched Myron whiz up and down the street in his van. When Cal retired, he approached Myron and asked if there was anything he could do to help. “Got a computer?” Myron asked. Cal did have great computer skills and Myron soon had him be the Coordinator for the World Vision Essential Supplies Program for Kitsap County.



Bob Keever related that Myron applied his engineering skills and woodworking craftsmanship toward building wheelchair ramps, railing, floats for parades, and exhibits for county fairs among other things. Myron, along with his Jefferson crew, used to come out to Kitsap to build wheelchair ramps and there he gained a local following and trained the Kitsap crew to carry on the torch. Over one thousand wheelchair ramps and a countless number of other projects were completed in Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam counties under his leadership as his legacy lives on.

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After Jo and Dan Nieuwsma retired here, they looked up the local Bluebills. Late in 2016, Myron sent them an invitation to come help build a ramp near their house a few days before Christmas.

It turned out the ramp was for a young boy with cerebral palsy who was struggling in his wheelchair to get into his family's mobile home across a gravel driveway. He had already gone to school when Jo and Dan arrived, along with a crew of about six people. It was the first time they had done any wood working since either of them was in school themselves. Myron was such a great mentor. He had them working within minutes and the 20 foot ramp was completed before the sweet little client had come home from school. Jo and Dan told his mom to tell him Santa's elves had come and made the ramp and then disappeared into the cold afternoon. Myron had Jo and Dan hooked with this "Tiny Tim" moment and they've helped design and build over 40 ramps since then.



Ed Berthaiume first met Myron when they were Regional Directors in Boeing Customer Support. Myron was working in Tokyo and Ed was in London so their paths never crossed. When Ed retired, he was surprised to find that Myron had retired to Port Ludlow as well. "One of my first memories of being a Bluebill was when Myron and I

picked up a truck load of clothing from World Vision in Tacoma. On the way home, we lost the load on one of the busiest sections of Highway 3 through Bremerton. Men and women's clothing were scattered all over the highway. As we were dodging traffic and picking up clothes, we found ourselves laughing at our situation. From that beginning, I got to know Myron a lot better.

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One of his endearing qualities was that he could get me to volunteer to do things I never dreamed of doing and make me think I was having a good time doing it. That was Myron.”

Bonnie Douglass related, “I cannot think of a greater person that I could have had to work with in the Boeing Bluebills. He was an uplifting person, always giving credit where and when credit was due – it did not make any difference whether it was male or female.”

Myron helped Bonnie and Lee found the School Supplies for Quilcene, Brinnon and five schools in Mason County as well as Gifts -in-Kind and the Backpack Program for Quilcene, Brinnon and Mason County. “He took the time to see the potential in people. We will miss you.”



Jay Gilmore met Myron in 1990 when Boeing sent him to Tokyo. “Nice guy with a big job,” says Jay. After retiring to Port Ludlow in 2012, Jay met Myron again when he was running the Bluebills.

“I got drafted as a Bluebill, of course,” says Jay, but he soon became aware that the Bluebills had no operation structure, documents or rules. Everybody just did what Myron asked them to

do – no program managers, no budgets, no schedules, no progress reports and no management reviews. “Certainly not Boeing’s approach,” Jay observed. Myron’s “approach” was simply knowing that volunteers assume tasks because they want to help others and are “rewarded” by feeling better about themselves. This left Myron free to identify what and who needed help and how the Bluebills could make it happen. Somehow the funding would appear, the right skills team would show up, the materials would be found, and the “need” would be addressed. Just by his “asking”! Stress-free success, using Myron’s secret gift: See a need/fix a need.

We could go on and on getting wonderful stories from every Bluebill and every person whose life was improved by Myron’s service to his community. He will be missed and remembered for years.

**Donations to the PSO Bluebills can be sent to:**

**Peninsula Support Organization/Bluebills**

**PO BOX 65098**

**PORT LUDLOW, WA 98365**

**Or Online:**

**DONATE**

**Peninsula Support Organization (PSO)  
Bluebills**

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**Peninsula Support Organization (PSO)  
Bluebills**

# March Calendar

- Mar 8 WV Pickup for Jefferson County: Fife- 9:00 AM  
Inventory at Chimacum- 11:15 AM**
- Mar 17 St Patrick's Day**
- Mar 22 WV Pick for Jefferson County, Chimacum- 9:30 AM**
- Mar 25 WV Delivery for Jefferson County: Chimacum- 9:30 AM**

## March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 	18	19
20	21	22 	23	24	25	26 
27	28	29	30	31		



## Builders Pages

### Kitsap Builders

#### Outdoor Projects

Nice weather in February made it more pleasant to work on outdoor projects including steps and ramps for disabled clients.



Left - Bluebills builders fund provided the materials for this low income client in Port Orchard. A 12' ramp was installed and steps with a lower rise were built.

Right - 12' wheelchair ramp built for an Air Force veteran in Silverdale who served as a Bombadier/Navigator on the B-47 Stratojet and later on the B-52 Stratofortress.



16' ramp built for a Navy veteran in Silverdale, who shortly after enlisting in 1952 found himself on the USS Valley Forge aircraft carrier headed for North Korea



# HAVE YOU REPORTED YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS?



**REMEMBER: YOU CAN REPORT ANY VOLUNTEER HOURS! NOT JUST THE HOURS YOU WORK FOR BLUEBILLS. CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY~ ALL OF THESE HOURS COUNT TOO!**

**EMAIL YOUR HOURS TO Judy McCay:**

**[judy.mccay@psobluebills.net](mailto:judy.mccay@psobluebills.net)**

**Volunteer hours for January, 2022**

**40 Volunteers reported 968 hours.  
That is 21% of the Bluebill membership  
reporting hours for January.**

# March Birthdays

<b>THOMAS CONLEY</b>	<b>03/02</b>
<b>TODD KNOBLOCK</b>	<b>03/03</b>
<b>CHARLIE JOHNSON</b>	<b>03/09</b>
<b>ANNE RICKER</b>	<b>03/12</b>
<b>JAMES RILEY</b>	<b>03/13</b>
<b>JIM KNIGHT</b>	<b>03/14</b>
<b>MICHAEL EASTMAN</b>	<b>03/15</b>
<b>ROSE YIM</b>	<b>03/15</b>
<b>HOWARD SCHAIBLE</b>	<b>03/19</b>
<b>CYNTHIA DURHAM</b>	<b>03/23</b>
<b>WES DUNHAM</b>	<b>03/30</b>



**Happy Birthday!**

## OFFICERS

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## **World Vision Regional Coordinators**

Clallam Co.	John Behrens	<a href="mailto:john.behrens@psobluebills.net">john.behrens@psobluebills.net</a>
	Karen Easterly-Behrens	<a href="mailto:karen.ebehrens@psobluebills.net">karen.ebehrens@psobluebills.net</a>
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## **School Weekend Feeding Program**

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