



VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org
Jim Traner, Editor

Duane Pounds,
Commander

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Voice of Democracy Winners



Shown here is the winner of Post 8870's 2007/2008 Voice of Democracy Competition, Stefan Marmion, being presented his Winner's Certificate and check for \$100 by Dexter Miller, Post 8870's Competition Chairman. Stefan is a senior at Edmonds-Woodway High School.



Harrison Baxter (shown here with his teacher) was selected as this year's winner of VFW Post 8870's Patriot's Pen Competition – Why I Am an American Patriot. Harrison attends Madrona K-8. Harrison is proudly displaying his winner's certificate plus the check for \$60 he received from Dexter Miller, VFW Post 8870's Patriot's Pen Competition Chairman



This year's essay theme was "Why I Am an American Patriot." Shown here is the Edmonds Elementary School's Principal, Mr. David Meglathery, with 7 of his outstanding students all of whom submitted essays for this year's competition. Rachael Lockman, in the center (4th from the left or right) was recognized as Second Runner-Up in this year's Competition. She was awarded a Certificate and a check for \$25. The others were awarded certificates for their outstanding work.



Elizabeth Victoria Leslie, First Runner-Up, in this year's Voice of Democracy Competition, is at the left (although hard to see). She is receiving her certificate and check for \$60 from Rock Roth, Post 8870's Assistant Competition Chairman, at the Scriber Lake High School 'Holiday Buffet.' Elizabeth did an exemplary job in presenting her thoughts and ideas through use of audio tape, on this year's Voice of Democracy theme, My Role in Honoring America's Veterans.



Minutes From the December 14, 2007 Meeting (unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mather

The meeting began in proper order at 1235 with Chaplin Ed Gray reading the opening prayer, the pledge of allegiance, and the singing of "America" led by Buck Weaver. There were 22 members in attendance. Guests were District One Commander Ron Haley, Post 1561 Commander Bill Morse, and Tom Hawley, a potential member of the post. Membership applications from Don Hull, Jack Whorten and Bob Withey were reviewed and approved by the Membership Committee. The chapter was draped in memory of Jack Sadler and Jim Brown. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer and 2nd Year Trustee absent. The minutes of the November meeting and the Quartermaster's Report were approved as read.

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks thanked the members for their efforts in the Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Program, and in particular, Bob Crawford, for his excellent work as Assistant Poppy Chairman.

Voice of Democracy Chairman Dexter Miller reported that he and Assistant Chairman Rock Roth went to Woodway High School to present a certificate and a check to Stefan Marmion, a senior and first place winner, for his essay titled "An Indirect Respect." Other certificates will be presented or mailed to all participants in the essay contest. Commander Duane Pounds and Ladies Auxiliary President Julie Pounds will present the 3rd place winning certificate to Kayla Beers in Oak Harbor.

Americanism Chairman Buck Weaver reported he promotes and helps put on the internet information that he calls "Americana" about people who have contributed to Americanism. One article was on the Great Depression and those Americans who had to go through that time and how they contributed to an America that survived World War II and what we are experiencing now. He will be meeting with a teacher at a grade school in January and will be asking members to assist him at the different grade levels.

Historian Leroy Middleton presented the question: Where did the expression "the whole nine yards" come from? Answer: The ammunition belt for a 50 pound machine gun was 27 feet long.

Archie Whisman read a touching and poignant variation of the poem "The Night Before Christmas" that he believes could be called "Santa Claus Finds a Soldier." He also made the post aware of a program called Emergency Assistance Plus provided by the Good Sam Club that protects individuals and their families should they get sick or hurt while traveling in the U.S. or abroad.

A motion to donate \$250 to VFW National Military Services for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Commander Duane Pounds presented plaques to the Quartermaster, to Jim Traner, Phil Sacks, Bob Crawford, Dexter Miller, Rock Roth, Buck Weaver, Bob Pounds, Al Boyett and Jim Harkness, for their many years of service to Post 8870.

Post 1561 Commander Bill Morse's suggestion that the recruitment effort at the Everett Naval Station commissary and exchange be expanded to include all posts in the geographical area had been approved by District One Commander Ron Haley. A motion to include information for Post 8870 was made and passed by voice vote.

The meeting was closed with Chaplain Ed Gray leading the post in the closing prayer.



Commander Pounds Presents Awards for Service to the Post



A number of awards (as you can tell by the photos) were given by Commander Pounds for service during the past year. Included in the recipients, was Julie, Commander Pounds' wife and President of the Women's Auxiliary of Post 8870.

Omissions & Corrections

The problem with writing a newsletter is the inevitable omission of a name, event, photo, etc. Last month I omitted Bob Crawford in my column while praising the hard work of Phil Sacks. However, Phil correctly pointed out to me that Bob was instrumental in making the Buddy Poppy program into another successful fundraiser for the Post. For this omission, past omissions, and future omissions, I can only say, "Mea Culpa". Please, make it known to me when I goof up, and I will try to get it straight in the future.



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MEETING DATES

VFW Post 8870 meets the second Friday of each month (except November which is the third Friday) at the Senior Center located at 220 Railroad Ave. Edmonds, WA 98020. We welcome all veterans of foreign wars to attend our meetings. If you need any additional information, please contact our Quartermaster.

The Last Say

My mother is probably one of the most organized persons I know. In fact, she would give Quartermaster Liz a run for her money. Thank God there weren't Post-it Notes in the 50's while I was growing up or our house would have been plastered with directions and instructions on filing, hanging, folding, placing, and storing everything we boys owned into their respective places. Why I bring this up is my daughter gave me a very interesting Christmas present—all of mother's letters to me while I was in Vietnam. It seems she kept a copy (carbon, of course) of every letter she sent to me. She also maintained a monthly calendar indicating when every letter and parcel was sent, including the contents of each parcel. Of course each letter had the airmail receipt attached to it. It seems that my mother ended up being my supply sergeant although my recollection of that is rather skimpy. According to the "packing list", it seems that I was always in need of razor blades. Shaving with cold water every morning was tough—shaving with cold water and a dull razor was dangerous. I remember that we needed additional clips for our .45 pistols, it was dad who ran an army surplus store that got them but mom who mailed them. Since the nearest bank was about 6,000 miles away, when I got a chance I would send a money order home for her to deposit in the bank for me. Of course, a meticulous accounting of each deposit was recorded. Since my brother was in Nam at the same time, she maintained two lists, one for each boy. Although I am preaching to the choir, those letters pointed out that when a son or daughter goes off to war, an entire family does also. As we look forward to 2008, hopefully we can find a way to reach out to service families in our area and help them. While they may not earn the battle ribbon, they certainly need to know that the VFW will support them as they, in turn, support their family members serving under difficult circumstances. Oh, and my mom, she was a 2nd Lt. in the Army in WWII and is still going strong at 91.