

Upcoming Events Calendar 2010-11

Please take time to review the calendar and if there are additions that are necessary, please contact the Quartermaster at quartermaster@vfw8870.org or call Elizabeth Mather at 425-672-0279.

March 8th	Board Meeting—Traner’s office—110 James St., Edmonds, WA (0915 hrs.)
March 11th	Post Meeting—South Snohomish Senior Center—Lunch 11:30; Meeting 12:30
March 12th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 14th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 27th-28th	Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser—See Bob Crawford for details
May 31st	Memorial Day Ceremonies—Edmonds Cemetery
June 22nd - 25th	State Convention—Yakima

Post Dues Reminder

I’ll keep running this although most of the Post is current with their dues. However, we are missing 10 comrades who have not paid. If you’re having difficulty coming up with the funds, let us know. We will gladly help out in hardship situations. Also, consider a life membership. And be on the lookout for new members. Often, folks are just waiting for an invite to join. If you need membership forms, our Quartermaster, Liz Mather, will be happy to provide you with as many as you need.

Up-Coming Meetings

Tom Hallums—Korean Veteran Combat medic

District One Meeting

For those who are interested, remember that there will be a District One meeting on Saturday, March 12th, at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club.

Fund Raiser a Big Success

A big word of thanks to you who responded to our mailing seeking assistance for the Post Operations. We have raised \$1,600 and insured that we won’t be manning the Smokey Point Rest Area for three days next summer (whew). Also, thanks to everyone who, even if they couldn’t afford a donation, mailed their updated information to us. With the merger of the Clinton Post we are still behind in figuring out basic information such as service, length of time in VFW, etc. of all our members. If you put the paper-work aside and forgot it, it’s not too late to turn it in to our quartermaster. You can mail it or just drop her an email. Or better yet, attend our next meeting and hand it to her.

Memorial Day Plans Being Make

Fred Apgar is already working with the Cemetery Board in planning the Memorial Day ceremony. As you all know, we raise the flag to begin the services. This year Post member Michael Reagan will be the featured speaker while Katarina Nguyen will read her winning Voice of Democracy essay. We will have a White Table to honor our MIA/POW’s and Fred will explain what each item on the table symbolizes. This year’s theme is “Honoring Gold Star Families”. If anyone knows a member of a Gold Star family, please invite them and let Fred know who they are.

Post Nominations of Officers

It’s time to nominate new officers for the 2011-2012 year. Col. Buck Weaver is in charge of the nominating committee. If you’re interested in running for a position, Buck would love to talk to you. You can always make nominations from the floor at the next meeting. Also, if you’re interested, we will be discussing the subject at the next board meeting so feel free to attend. The election will be held in April with the inductions taking place in the May meeting.

Post Member Erv Schmidt—Happy 95th



Erv, with Tom Hallums behind him ready to cut the cake, was a bit overwhelmed when we postponed opening the meeting in order to wish him Happy Birthday, his 95th. Like he said, it was the first Birthday cake he had ever seen at a Post meeting. Erv, a Pearl Harbor survivor, almost missed his own party. We had dropped a couple of hints to him to make sure he was there and, when he didn't show, we gave him a call. He had got sidetracked paying bills and forgot what time it was. In the end it all worked out. Special thanks to Tom who worked all night baking the cake or at least took the time to run to Costco and pick it up. We also decided that it would be a great

tradition to implement—a cake for every Post member that turns 95 or 100. Erv is planning on another cake.

February's Speaker—Jack Colman—The Chosin Few

A special thanks to our speaker, Jack Colman. Mr. Colman joined the Marine Corp at the beginning of WWII and fought his way through the South Pacific beginning at Guadalcanal. After the war, he joined the Marine Corp Reserves and was called back to active duty at the beginning of the Korean War. Landing at Incheon, he went on to describe the battle at the Chosin Reservoir which pitted the US forces against Chinese and N. Korean forces at least twice the strength of the Americans. Mr. Colman's squad of 12 Marines turned over 5 times during the Korea Campaign, while Jack was wounded twice. Mr. Colman is definitely a Marine's Marine. I presented him with a Korea Service Certificate which he is holding, but not with a WWII certificate which we will get in the mail to him.



Airmen Missing in Action From WWII Identified

Several years ago I brought back a DVD from the National convention talking about the work that JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command) does in recovering and identifying the remains of our missing in action comrades. We played it at a Post meeting and it goes into some detail the efforts being made by JPAC to identify remains that are recovered. I normally don't include articles from third parties in this newsletter, but this was emailed to us by National and I thought I would pass it along to the Post. I recall one line from the video about a Chinese official wondering why we Americans spend so much time and effort in recovering these remains. We know why.

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of 11 U.S. servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Army Air Forces Technical Sgt. Charles A. Bode, 23, Baltimore, will be buried on Feb. 11 in Arlington National Cemetery. On Nov. 20, 1943, Bode, along with 10 other B-24D Liberator crew members, took off from Jackson Airfield, Port Moresby, New Guinea, on an overwater mission near the northern coast of the country. During the mission, the only radio transmission from the crew indicated they were 20 miles northwest of Port Moresby, but they did not return to Jackson Airfield. Subsequent searches failed to uncover any evidence of either the crew or the aircraft. Following the war, the Army Graves Registration Service conducted investigations and searches for 43 missing airmen including Bode and the other 10 airmen, but concluded in June 1949 that all were unrecoverable. In 1984, the government of Papua New Guinea notified U.S. officials of a World War II crash site in a ravine in Morobe Province. A U.S. search and recovery team investigated the crash site in late 1984 and located B-24 aircraft wreckage. They also recovered human remains but were unable to complete the mission due to time constraints and the threat of landslides. From that time until 2004, multiple teams from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) attempted to access and excavate the location but the threat of landslides made recovery too dangerous to continue. During a site visit in 2004, local villagers turned over human remains they had previously removed from the area. In addition to Bode's individual burial, the crew of 11 men, 1st Lt. Richard T. Heuss, 23, Berkeley, Mich.; 2nd Lt. Robert A. Miller, 22, Memphis, Tenn.; 2nd Lt. Edward R. French, 23, Erie, Pa.; 2nd Lt. Robert R. Streckenbach, Jr., 21, Green Bay, Wis.; Tech. Sgt. Charles A. Bode; Tech. Sgt. Lucian I. Oliver, Jr., 23 Memphis, Tenn.; Staff Sgt. Ivan O. Kirkpatrick, 36, Whittier, Calif.; Staff Sgt. William K. Musgrave, 24, Hutsonville, Ill.; Staff Sgt. James T. Moran, 21, Sloatsburg, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. James B. Moore, 21, Woburn, Mass.; and Staff Sgt. Roy Surabian, 24, Medford, Mass., will be buried as a group on March 24 at Arlington National Cemetery. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA in the identification of Bode's remains. At the end of World War II, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 74,000 are unaccounted-for from the conflict.

Why the Post is Gathering Members' Information

This isn't a scam to put you on someone's mailing list other than ours. We won't sell the list or misuse it. However, we're trying very hard to complete our records of all of our members. We recently mailed a questionnaire with certificates of services to everyone. (Gulf War vets didn't receive a certificate. We aren't ignoring those vets, it's just we didn't have the certificates until yesterday). Also, there are approximately 50 members that we aren't sure where they served. These are typically members that have joined our Post from other Posts and we don't have DD-214's on file for them. Unfortunately, who ever designed National's data base neglected to put qualifying ribbons in the member's information. Further, if you joined, say in 1969 like I did, and then became a life member in 1986, again like I did, there is no record of the membership prior to the conversion to Life Membership. We sent information request slips to every member and we would really appreciate getting the information back so if you're sitting on it, please drop it in the mail. If you can't find it, just mail the pertinent information in—length of membership in the VFW, area of service and branch of military, telephone number, and email addresses. If we have this information, we can let you know what is going on in the Post and perhaps give you some local information that may help you.

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The Last Word

I was very pleased with the generosity that was shown by our members in supporting our Post through their contributions. Many of you sent in donations and, just as importantly, many updated our records by providing the information we requested. Our Post is very strict in not using funds derived by our Buddy Poppy fund raising efforts on Veterans Day and Memorial Day for Post operations. Those funds are used solely for our Relief Fund which supports the USO, the VFW Children's Home, the WA Soldiers Home in Orting and Restsil, scholarships for Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy, and sending "care" packages to troops overseas, just to name a few. We have a committee of 3 individuals who review the various requests we receive and make recommendations to the Post on what programs to support. The Post, on the other hand, has a very limited budget and even a more limited source of funds. In the past, we received donations for serving coffee at the Smokey Point rest area on I-5. That requires manning the rest area for 72 consecutive hours. What happens is a very few individuals pull these shifts for the entire Post. In August, we raised approximately \$800 for our efforts. That works out to a little over \$5.50 an hour. Thank goodness, we won't be out there this August.. Again, thanks to everyone for supporting the Post.