



VFW Post 8870

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

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Volume 2, Issue 4
April 1, 2008

Officer Nominations for 2008 - 2009

Commander	Duane Pounds
Senior Vice Commander	Jim Traner
Junior Vice Commander	Rock Roth
Quartermaster/Adjutant	Elizabeth Mather
Surgeon	Al Boyett
Chaplain	Edgar Gray, Jr.
Judge Advocate	Jim Harkness
1st Year Trustee	Richard Marin
2nd Year Trustee	Buck Weaver
3rd Year Trustee	Les Abel

These were the folks that were nominated at the March meeting. Ed Gray took the chaplain position over his own objection as Dexter Miller will be his assistant. Thanks to both of these fine gentlemen. The nominations are open to anyone who wishes to serve so attend the next meeting when the voting will take place. Fortunately, Liz "volunteered" to another year as Quartermaster so the Post is fortunate that position is in fine hands.

Poppy Sign-ups

Bob Crawford got a head start in assisting Phil Sacks in getting you folks to sign up for the Memorial Day fund raiser. Phil, who missed the meeting due to procedure which will make him a better person (ask him—not me about the procedure), now has Bob leading the charge in signups. I noticed a lot of blank spaces on the sheets when they went by me so step up and pull a shift. Its not hard work, and Phil provides chairs for those who can't stand. This isn't a "feel-good" project, these funds are needed to help out local vets and provide phone cards to the guys and gals in Iraq and Afganistan. So call Bob or Phil and secure the shift of your choice.

The Purpose and Eligibility Requirements for VFW

The Purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

A person may not be a member of the VFW unless that person –

1. Served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service has been recognized as campaign-medal service and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the Government of the United States; or
2. While a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, served honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949, or
3. While a member of the armed forces serving in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.

VFW Post 8870 Auxiliary Seeking

The lifeline of any organization is its membership. This holds true for the Post and it's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is actively seeking members. Membership is open to spouses or relatives of a Post member. If you know of anyone who is interested in participating in the Auxiliary, have them call Julie Pounds at 206-362-3935 or email the Quartermaster at the website address.

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.



**Member Profile -
Murial Jean Whalley**



Editor's note: Jean wrote this article for the newsletter. I was going to edit it down a bit but after reading it a couple of times, decided to publish it in its entirety. I personally want to thank her for sharing this marvelously story of her life's journey in the military.

First of all, I should explain how I became a WAC in World War II. You might agree an unusual event. I, Muriel Jean Whalley, was born in the USA of British parents on vacation. I was taken with my U.S. birth certificate, a tiny infant, by Canard Lines to England. I was raised English, but was always reminded I was American, with the greatest of pride! I, and my family, endured the start of WWII 1939-1944, 5 years in air raid shelters, lack of food and never sure of one more day of life. We were in a prime target area near the port of Liverpool, the town of Warrington Lancashire. But good old Winston Churchill led us, surviving for the ultimate victory of us and our allies. Defeat against Hitler never entered our minds. Our back bones were strong beyond any force.

When I was 15 years old, I was employed by the British Air Ministry at a very famous base "Burtonwood". This base sent 1000 bombers per night to bomb Germany in retaliation of the blitz. Suddenly, the Yanks arrived to take over the Burtonwood base. I was now 20 years old. One day, I noticed a strange picture on the wall. I was drawn to look at it for a closer look! I thought "now that is a strange funny looking bloke!" It said "Uncle Sam wants you!" I thought "Who the heck is Uncle Sam?" It read "Uncle Sam is aware there are US born females in the UK. If you are one, please telephone this number." I hesitated, puzzled by this funny man. But later I was interviewed by a US army officer. He explained "We need women like you for a special unit to go in with part of the invasion of France. Would you?" I said "Why me?" To which he replied "You are perfect for Uncle Sam. You are hardened to war. Air raids bomb shelters – unbeatable British spirit. You never give up! But of course I want to warn you – you may not come back!" I replied "I will do it – the war has to be over. By the way who is Uncle Sam?" He said "The USA." This was news to me, as all I know was US movies and music at that time. My dad upon hearing the news said (As a survivor of WWI as a British Tommy) – "You are going to get yourself bloody well killed!" I said "Daddy, I could do that right here." About approximate 45 women were inducted in London England in 1944. We all had English accents, Scottish and Welsh accents. We were all hand picked to perform this special army communications unit. We were all born of English parents in the USA; import-



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ers, business people, etc. We were like sisters dedicated to get the job done. Top security clearance was required. We could not tell anyone our location or not tell anyone of our assignment. We had to turn deaf ears on things we heard on the lines. When Paris was captured, we were placed on the Paris telephone exchange France switchboard. I handled calls from General Eisenhower to General Patton, Omar Bradley and all of our allies from the Battle of The Bulge and all the way to Berlin including all troop movements etc. Many times the lines were weak and I had to intervene and relay orders to both ends. Hence the secrecy! Also we were prime targets for German spies in Paris at the time and would have been shot ! We WACS worked 16 hour days - hard cold work. The winter of 1944 was cruel and with no heat .We had blankets around us and had to be checked for frost bite. At the switchboard, we did go in by the way at Omaha Beach Normandy with the GI's on their way to combat . The troop ship was packed to the inch. During the wait to cross the channel, I was nominated to sing on deck and lead the guys in the favorites of the time. "Blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover", "Paper Doll", "I'll be seeing you ", "Over there", "I don't want to walk without you baby", "Sentimental Journey". I sang for hours answering requests. I looked at the sea of faces and realized that most of them were singing for the last time. I could hear Bob Hopes voice in my ear saying "Sing for them. Honey, sing!"

On arrival in a convoy at Omaha Beach, we went over the side of the ship and down the rope ladders into the landing crafts. Just like the guys – full gear pack on the back; helmet, army boots and leggings .But no gun for the WACS (not for women). I was issued a hatchet however. We waded through the surf to the beach. The WACS had to be de-loused for lice on our bodies caused by contaminated hay in the ships hold where we were placed. We were sprinkled with lice killer at the open collar. This caused the lice to escape south causing more distress! A never to be forgotten experience. I could fill volumes with my memories. The true "heroes", are the ones who lie beneath the crosses and graves over there. We all did it for our country and freedom. I never heard any WAC ever say – I should not be here, ever.

1944-1946, 2 years; we WACS had a job to do for Uncle Sam. We performed it well! The yanks at Burtonwood searching for us were right, choosing us for the special unit. We all answered that Uncle Sam poster faithfully, and with pride of our birth. It was an honor to serve in the WAC. And helping to end World War II. The war where it was killing or be killed – No Defeat – Only Victory!

WAC – SGT Muriel Jean Whalley
3341st Signal Service Bat: Company 'C'
Paris France: 1944-1946
Omaha Beach –Normandy Invasion of France



A Lesson That Should Be Taught in All Schools

This story was shared by Commander Pounds at the last meeting. For those of you who didn't make the meeting, I have decided to pass it along.

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Colthren, a social studies teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, she removed all the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. Looking around, confused, they asked, "Ms. Colthren, where are our desks?"

She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk."

They thought, "Well, maybe its our grades."

"No," she replied.

"Maybe its our behavior." She told them, "No, it's not your behavior."

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom.

By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room. The final period of the day came and as puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Matha Cothren said "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door and opened it. Twenty-seven U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, waled into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, " You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, its up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

Stefan Marmion being presented by Dexter Miller



Stefan Marmion, our Post's winner in the Voice of Democracy contest and the third place essay winner in district, read his essay, "An Indirect Respect" to the Post during the meeting. Dexter Miller and Rock Roth both deserve credit for a job well done in guiding this program through the school district and in evaluating the essays. Stefan was accompanied by his grandfather who is also a veteran. I placed this article purposely below the "editorial" story of the school teacher to point out that many of our students such as Stefan do place a value on the veterans who served their country. But Stefan does make a good point that many do not. It is contests from the veterans' organizations such as VFW and the American Legion that provides a forum for the students to pause and evaluate what freedom means to them and at what cost that freedom was obtained. We wish Stefan well in his academic future.



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And Now a Word from Our Advertisers

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Windermere



Buck Weaver Makes His Point at the Meeting

I'll be darn if I can remember what Past Commander Buck was saying here, but it was such a good picture of him so I figured I'd throw it in here. Whatever the point was, I'm pretty sure the Post voted unanimously to support Buck's motion. By the way, Buck, who was a fighter pilot in WWI—whoops WWII, will be 90 in August. Lookin' good Buck.

The Last Say

I recently received a magazine from another veteran's organization to which I belong and was giving it a quick glance over when I ran across a letter to the editor from a veteran who was questioning the difficulties that some of younger veterans were facing after serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. He went on to compare to what his peer group had gone through in the conflict where he served.. To be perfectly honest, I was appalled by the letter. I didn't think there was a hierarchy of veterans where "my war was bigger than your war" existed, where "my rations were worse than your rations" and "my gear wasn't as good as your gear". That is not to say that there aren't varying degrees of combat experience within the Post. But putting entire groups of veterans into a hierarchy based on the conflict in which they served is not only wrong, it is demeaning to those vets. The good news is I haven't seen that with any of my friends in our Post nor do I expect to. In fact, it has been just the opposite with younger members being welcomed with open arms. Posted on the first page of this newsletter are the qualifications for membership in the VFW. We welcome all veterans who meet these requirements into our organization.



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VFW POST 8870 MEETING MARCH 14, 2008

Prior to the meeting, Stefan Marmion, first place post Voice of Democracy essay winner and third place district winner read his essay entitled "An Indirect Respect" which was warmly received, and he was congratulated by members of the post. Stefan was accompanied to the meeting by his grandfather, and they both enjoyed the Senior Center St. Patrick's Day special lunch prior to the meeting.

The meeting then opened in proper order at 1245 with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray, the pledge of allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America" led by Buck Weaver. There were 25 members in attendance. Guests were John Beam of Post 1040, Past State Commander and District One Adjutant, and Elmer Johnson, Commander of Post 921. The roll call of officers found the Senior Vice Commander, Service Officer and Judge Advocate absent. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved as corrected. The quartermaster's report for the month of February was approved as read. The Service Officer report was read by the Quartermaster and accepted by the post. Surgeon Al Boyett submitted the Community Service and Hospital reports for the month of January.

In view of the ongoing need of post operating funds, Ray Ault suggested that the post have a "spring cleaning" garage sale, perhaps at the Senior Center or the American Legion. The problem, as always, is the organization of the sale, and the need for storage space. Earl Prebezac, who works with the Civic Light Opera, and who is a long time ebay trader, volunteered, in lieu of a garage sale, to accept articles from members of the post on a continuing basis for sale on ebay. Articles for contribution may be brought to post meetings. Commander Duane Pounds requested that Earl and Ray assume responsibility for this project.

Commander Duane Pounds reported that his wife Julie, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, was recovering from a 10 day hospital stay, and so could not preside over the March Auxiliary meeting. Jan Beam substituted for her. Buck Weaver reported that Past Commander Harold Huston's wife underwent double by-pass surgery, but is on the mend. Harold sent his regrets that he could not attend the meeting.

Buddy Poppy Assistant Bob Crawford stated that Memorial Day collections will be made on Friday, May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th at three stores, Tops, Safeway, and QFC. Sign up sheets were passed around and members were urged to sign up for at least 2 shifts.

Newsletter Editor Jim Traner reported that he sold another ad for inclusion in the newsletter from real estate agent Connie Kopp, which brings another \$120 into the post operating fund. He also reported that he will be doing a bio on Jean (Muriel) Whalley for inclusion in the newsletter, and will be doing bios of members on an ongoing basis. If there are no volunteers, he will select a member for interviewing. He needs only a paragraph or two, and urged members to submit information on their tours in the military. Historian Leroy Middleton will provide information, if possible, on members when they have passed on.

Jim Traner is also working with Peter Schmidt, Associate Dean at Edmonds Community College to make information available to returning veterans on benefits they may be due. The college is making space available for brochures and applications for recruitment in the VFW for eligible veterans. Jim drafted a welcome home letter for returning veterans that will include informative brochures and a VFW application. Jim made a motion to purchase 25 "Welcome Home" coins for \$2.00 each that will be included in the letters. The motion was seconded and passed.

Buck Weaver is recruiting members for the 4th of July parade, either to march with the group or ride in an auto. He also reminded members to make a good turnout for the Memorial Day program at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery.

Nominating Committee Chair Buck Weaver reported that members were contacted about their availability for office, and presented the results to the post. Officers nominated for the 2008-2009 term were:

Commander	Duane Pounds	Senior Vice Commander	Jim Traner
Junior Vice Commander	Rock Roth	Quartermaster	Elizabeth Mather
Surgeon	Al Boyett	Chaplain	Ed Gray
Assistant Chaplain	Dexter Miller	Judge Advocate	
1 st Year Trustee	Richard Marin	2 nd Year Trustee	Buck Weaver
3 rd Year Trustee	Les Abel		

As Jim Harkness was not present, he will be nominated for Judge Advocate at the April meeting. Voting for all nominees will be made at the April meeting. Commander Duane Pounds appointed John Casapiedra to assume the duties of Officer of the Day.

Historian Leroy Middleton told of the little known 7" guns once installed on old cruisers and stored in a warehouse in Washington, D.C. They were shipped to the island of Bora Bora during World War II and installed by Seabees (short for Construction Battalion) there for defense.

Commander Duane Pounds spoke of the need of the post to get involved with the Edmonds Boy Scout troop and will appoint a committee to follow up with the program. After much discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that the post buy Eagle Scout recognition awards from the VFW catalog to have on hand for presentation.

A 100% Membership Ribbon was received by the post and passed around for viewing by the members. Newly appointed Officer of the Day John Casapiedra will add the ribbon to the post flag.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray and a salute to the flag.