



VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA
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Jim Traner, Editor

VFW Post 8870

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Long Time Member Leaving Post

John Nutting announced at the March meeting he would be leaving the Edmonds area to live with his son in Vancouver, WA. John has been an active member of the Post for many, many years and he will be missed. The Post stood and saluted John and wished him luck in the future.

Food Drive

Remember to bring non-perishable food items to the meeting. Phil Sacks and his wife will make sure they are delivered to the Edmonds Food Bank. Tie a bow around your finger to remember. So far the participation has been a bit sparse. In these times, there are a bunch of folks in this community who could use our help.

Post to Support College Vets

March's Speaker



Timm Lovitt Explains Project to Post

Donnetta Coleman—Tahoma Cemetery

Timm Lovitt made a presentation to the Post explaining the projects that the College Vets club are pursuing. Timm is the current president of the Vets club and a member of Post 8870. The Post has made a commitment to assist the Veterans Club at Edmonds Community College place a monument on campus. The monument will be a bronze statue featuring a pair of combat boots on a stack of college text books symbolizing the transition from soldier to scholar, often a difficult transition as many of you know from prior experience. The proposal to the College Vets is to fund the last 25% of the project up to \$750. This gives the guys incentive to go out and raise the first 75% of the funding on their own. Timing for the completion of the project is Veterans Day.

Ms. Coleman gave an excellent presentation explaining to the Post the various options on interment at Tahoma Cemetery including burial with your spouse, cremation, etc. While not exactly a conversation you wish to have over dinner, it is an important item to discuss with your spouse and children at sometime before it is too late to have the conversation. As Ms. Coleman pointed out, the arrangements for Tahoma are made at the local funeral home level, not with the cemetery. Although she did not mention it, I am sure if you had any questions, Beck's or one of the local funeral homes would have additional information. Again, your survivors will need your DD-214 or other discharge papers so make sure they know where to located them.

Need A Lift?

If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email. We can't promise we can get everyone, but we sure will give it a good try. A lot of guys are getting grounded, so to speak, but that isn't a good reason to miss a meeting. On the other hand, if you are interested in providing transportation to a fellow member, let Liz know and she can match riders with drivers.

Poppy Signup Sheet

Phil Sacks is trying to get an idea of how many members will be available on Memorial Day weekend for Buddy Poppies. If we can get enough volunteers we can expand our coverage to a couple of other stores and increase our fund raising. If you can't make the next couple of meetings, give Phil a call at 425-741-7311.

Parkinson Study at April Meeting

Plan on staying a bit later at the April meeting. Representatives from the U of W will be requesting volunteers to donate a blood sample for a research project on Parkinsons disease. The national VFW is supporting this research..



Dean Shelly—Patriot’s Pen Essay

Dean Shelly and family attended the Post meeting where he read an excellent essay. For you who missed it, the young man was poised and articulate during his presentation. Dean will be read his essay at the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Edmonds Cemetery. Dean is an excellent representative of the youth in our community.



So Long John

Duane Pounds and Jim Harkness together with John Nutting. A number of members stopped by to see John Nutting and while a number of photos were taken, this is the only one I received before the deadline. So Duane gets side by side photos.

100% Membership—Oops We’re a Bit Short

Just when we thought we had a 100% membership, we were notified by National that the Clinton Post was 2 members shy, and since we were now merged together, we are 2 members short. Dealing with the IRS all day (remember, I’m a CPA), keeps me a bit jaded to bureaucracy, but it seems like we should get a pass on helping another Post by merging with them. In any event, we are now beating the bush for additional members so if you know of anyone who would like to become a VFW member (and is eligible), by all means encourage them to join.

POW/MIA’s to be Recognized at Memorial Day Ceremonies

A couple of us attended the American Legion meeting a couple of weeks ago. It was brought up that there was no POW/MIA remembrance at the Memorial Day Ceremony. It was a valid observation so I contacted a cemetery board member who had Dale Hogins call me. Dale was very supportive of including this at the ceremony so we will have a chair covering with our POW/MIA banner. Dale wanted to have a youth involved, so Peter Sessum’s daughter will perform the honors. Hopefully, everyone will attend this event, rain or shine.

A Bit of Trivia

- The last survivor of the American Revolution, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109
- The last survivor of the War of 1812, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/1905 , age 105
- The last survivor of the Indian Wars, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/1973, age 101
- The last survivor of the Mexican War, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/1929, age 98
- The last Union survivor of the Civil War, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/1956, age 109
- The last Confederate survivor of the Civil War, John Salling, died 3/16/1958, age 112



Minutes from the March 13, 2009 Meeting

Prior to the meeting, Acting Officer of the Day Fred Apgar draped the vacant chair set aside for POW/MIA's while Chaplain Ed Gray said a prayer in their remembrance.

Rock Roth introduced Dean Shelly who read his special award winning Patriot's Pen essay entitled "Why American Veterans Should be Honored" to the delight of his mother, father and older brother who were in the audience taking pictures of the special event. Dean will also read his essay at the Memorial Day services at the Edmonds Cemetery.

Fred Apgar announced that researchers from the University of Washington, where a study is being conducted on Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders to determine genetic and other risk factors that may affect the disease, will be available at the conclusion of the April meeting. The study has been endorsed by the Veterans Administration. Health history and blood samples will be taken, and members are encouraged to stay at the end of the April meeting to participate in this important study.

Fred Apgar then introduced Donnetta Coleman of the Tahoma National Cemetery who spoke about making funeral arrangements at the facility, eligibility requirements, and benefits for eligible veterans and their spouses. A certificate of appreciation was given to Ms Coleman and a donation made to the "Fallen Heroes Project" in her name.

The meeting then opened in proper order with a prayer by Chaplain Ed Gray, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of "America the Beautiful" led by Buck Weaver. There were 24 members in attendance, including new inductees Troy Montgomery, a Marine veteran who served two tours in Iraq, and Karl Stingl, a new Life Member. Don Williams, District One Commander, and Anna Sessum, daughter of Peter Sessum and champion Buddy Poppy donation collector, were guests at the meeting. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer, Officer of the Day, and 1st Year Trustee absent. The minutes of the February 13, 2009 meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. The Quartermaster's Report was accepted as read.

Surgeon Al Boyett gave the Hospital and Community Service Reports.

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks stated that Central Market has been added to the number of stores that have allowed the post to distribute poppies on Memorial Day, and urged that members be generous with their time and sign up for more than one shift.

Nominating Committee Chairman Buck Weaver announced the following nominations for the 2009–2010 term of office:

Commander	Jim Traner	Senior Vice Commander	Rock Roth
Junior Vice Commander	Fred Apgar	Quartermaster	Elizabeth Mather
Chaplain	Ed Gray	Judge Advocate	Richard Marin (unconfirmed)
Surgeon	Al Boyett	3 rd Year Trustee	Duane Pounds

Buck advised that further nominations may be presented in writing at the April meeting.

Timm Lovitt, the President of the Vets Club at Edmonds Community College talked about the Veterans Monument project that is being undertaken by the club to place a bronze monument at the highest point on the campus, depicting a pair of combat boots atop some text books, and symbolizing the necessary and sometimes difficult transition from combat to civilian life at the college. The monument itself is estimated to cost \$3,000, and funds are being solicited from the community. The board suggested that Post 8870 donate 25% (\$750) to the project. A motion was made that the post donate back end money in the amount of 25% of the \$750 payable upon the Vets Club raising the balance of the funds. The motion was seconded and carried.

Fred Apgar talked about a brochure on Flag Etiquette that he is creating to be distributed at many of the functions in which the post is involved. He will contact printers to determine the cost of running off copies. Fred also reported that National supplied the post with 100 free one-year subscription cards to the VFW Magazine and cards were mailed to every library and high school in Snohomish County together with a letter of thanks for their support of our community and educating our children.

District One Commander Don Williams reminded the officers of the upcoming District meeting on Saturday, May 16th at 12 noon at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club in Lynnwood.

Terry Traner was selected by the post as "Teacher of the Year" and Rock Roth presented the award to Jim Traner on her behalf.

John Nutting reported that he was leaving Edmonds at the end of the month to live with his son in Vancouver, WA, and said goodbye to everyone in the post. The post wished him well and recognized him for his more than 55 years of service in the VFW.

Jim Traner won the 50/50 drawing and donated his half of the \$44 to the Post General Fund.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Chaplain Ed Gray and a hand salute to the flag.



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The Last Word

I ran into a friend of mine who's son had recently returned from Iraq. I asked how he was doing and found out the transition to civilian life (interpretation—war to peace) was a bit rough. When I got home that night, my latest VFW magazine had arrived. The lead story was about the difficulty a number of WWII vets had in making the transition from war to peace. I think every guy assumes he's the only one who ever had a problem making this adjustment. I told my friend that we had a service officer that could put his son in touch with the right people to assist him, and that our Post would do whatever it could. Most of us have been there, done that, and, hopefully, learned a lesson or two along the way. Hopefully, these younger vets will let us help them.

I recalled sitting on a bench in a gym in the Oakland Army base in 1969 getting ready to be discharged. There were maybe a 100 guys that had been in Vietnam 48 hours earlier, dead tired, and ready to become civilians when someone casually asked how the heck we get out of the building if we were hit. Immediately, 100 heads started pivoting looking for exits and, I think, somewhat startled by the fact we had been there for 10 or 15 minutes without knowing how the heck to get out of the place should there be incoming. A few seconds later his buddy said, "you crazy son of a gun" (or something along that line), "we're in the states—we won't get hit" and a collective sigh could be heard before the embarrassed chuckling began. That was our transition from combat to civilian life.