

### 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](mailto:quartermaster@vfw8870.org) or call Elizabeth Mather at 425-672-0279.

April 5th	Board Meeting—Traner’s office—110 James St., Edmonds, WA (0915 hrs.)
April 8th	Post Meeting—South Snohomish Senior Center—Lunch 11:30; Meeting 12:30
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

### Congressman Jay Inslee to attend Post Meeting To Honor Mike Reagan

Several months ago Mike was honored by a Congressional proclamation which was published in this newsletter. On April 8th, the Congressman will attend our Post meeting and make a formal presentation to Mike, and I hope we can have a well attended meeting for this special occasion. As you all know, Mike’s Fallen Heroes Project supports families of KIA’s with free portraits of their loved ones. Be there if you can.

### Post Makes Donation of POW/MIA flags to the Edmonds School District

Martin Spani, Commander of Post 1040 in Lynnwood and Jim Traner presented the School District with enough POW/MIA flags to be flown at every school in the district. Post 1040 covers the east portion of the school district while our Post covers the area west of Highway 99. The board was quite appreciative of the gift and we were honored to make it. Next time you see the flag flying from a school be proud of your contribution.

### Want to Go to a Ball Game?

Post 1040 in Lynnwood and our Post are planning on attending an Aquasox game on August 13th in the evening. Tickets are \$10 and I have only reserved 10 seats at this time so don’t procrastinate or you’ll be out of luck. It should be a fun evening. Fireworks are planned after the game and in the past, the veterans get the royal treatment. So if you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible either by email (preferable) or phone at 425-672-0279.

### Mike Reagan Being Honored In Olympia on April 7th

[I wrote this article prior to hearing that Jay Inslee would be visiting our Post to honor Mike. However, rather than re-writing the newsletter, lets just say the first week in April 2011 is now deemed “Mike Reagan Week”.]

Due to the labors of Jim Adams working with Senator Maralyn Chase’s office, Mike will be honored on the floor of the Senate on April 7th between 9AM and noon. We can’t pin it down any closer, but Jim was told it would most likely be after 10AM. We are planning on putting a car pool together. We will meet at the Park and Ride at Aurora Village (just east of the Costco gas pumps) at 8:00AM. If you are interested in attending the ceremony, please call Elizabeth at 425-672-0279 or email her at our web address. There will be a few dignitaries and perhaps the Department Commander so please bring your VFW hats. I hope we can have a great turnout although I admit I won’t make it—being a CPA April 7 is a bad day for me to leave the office.

### Nominations of Officers

There will be an election of officers at the next meeting. Nominations were made at the March meeting, but additional nominations can be made at the April meeting prior to the election.

## March Speaker—Post Member Tom Hallums



Tom was a combat medic in Korea. I didn't realize those guys went through so much training, even though my dad was a medic. Tom took us on a journey from TN to Ft. Lewis to Korea. He is the one guy I know that enjoyed train rides, boat rides, and seeing the world. Tom's first combat experience was retrieving three soldiers who had been wounded in a rice patty. As Tom tells the story, he went and got them. Somehow there must be a bit more to the story since he received the Silver Star for his actions that day. Not bad for your first day in combat. Like most of us who served, Tom said his service changed his life and I gather mostly for the good. Tom

spent a year in Korea including going north to the Yellow River and then south after the Chinese invaded Korea. Tom is a great Post member and it is obvious from his service that he was a great medic. Those guys didn't get paid enough for what they did (and what they do today).

### The Last Word

[I apologize for the short newsletter this month. I think most of you know I'm a CPA. As I sit here and type this, I am looking at mounds of returns waiting for my attention. However, I wrote most of this "Last Word" while I was watching a newscast about of a death of veteran.]

Frank Buckles, the last surviving WWI veteran, died in March at the age of 110. In the 1950's, I remember going on vacation with my best friend, Gary, and visiting his uncle who was sucking oxygen when we stopped to visit him in Portland. He had been gassed in the trenches in WWI, and I guess he was the only combat vet I met from the "Great War". At about the same time, TV came to Yakima and I recall seeing the Civil War vets in the open limousines in NY at the Armistice Day parades. Generations come and go and are soon forgotten by those who come behind. So I salute an end of a generation of warriors while I look at another shrinking generation of veterans whom I hold in the deepest respect, those from WWII. Each generation of veterans has left its legacy to this country. It is up to us to make sure that those who came before us are never forgotten.

The family of Frank Buckles wished to have his body reside in the Capital Rotunda in Washington DC. That viewing was denied. As far as I can see in my research, other than 4 or 5 star generals and Presidents who served in the military, the only veterans to have their bodies reside there are the unknown soldiers from WWI, WWII, and Vietnam (who was later identified). However, there have been a number of politicians given that honor after their deaths. Perhaps its just my background, but I would have given my permission to the family had I been in charge. There should be some reward for being the last man standing.

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