



VFW Post 8870

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

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The charter was draped in memory of Jim Braun, long-time member of the Post.



District One Commander Don Williams performed the induction ceremony for the Post officers while Don's wife, Carol, presided over the induction of the Auxiliary's officers. While the induction took place in May, the official "changing of the guard" will not take place until after the State Convention in June

Calendar 2009-2010

June 6th	Eagle Court of Honor
June 25th-28th	State Convention—Yakima
July 4th	Parade—Edmonds followed with Social function at American Legion
July 17th (7PM)	Aquasox Baseball—7PM
July 18th	School of Instruction—Fife
August 14th-16th	Traveling Wall—Acacia Cemetery
August 17th-20th	National Convention—Phoenix
August 28th-31st	Smokey Point Fundraiser
September 12th	District I Conference—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
November 6th-7th	Veteran's Day Poppy Fundraiser
November 7th	District I Conference—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
November 20th	Post Meeting on 3rd Friday—Not 2nd Friday
March 6, 2010	District I Conference—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 1st, 2010	District I Convention
June 24th-25th	State Convention—Yakima

Everett Aquasox Game

A number of us are attending the Aquasox game on July 17 at 7 PM. The Sox are having Military Appreciation night and tickets are \$8. If you are interested in joining us, give Jim Traner a call at 425-640-8650.

Upcoming Speakers

June 12, 2009	Mr. Cory Graff, Flying Heritage Museum
July 10, 2009	TBA
August 14, 2009	Sgt. Major Jesse Mafnas, USMC
September 11, 2009	Mr. John Lee, WA State Department of Veterans Affairs
October 9, 2009	TBA
November 20, 2009	Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Winners
December 11, 2009	Holiday musical entertainment

Board Meeting

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday of the week of our regular meeting at Jim Traner's office at 110 James St., Suite 106, Edmonds 9AM. Anyone is welcome to attend. If you have a specific issue you would like raised and can't make the meeting, contact our Quartermaster@vfw8870.org.

Post Members Elected to District Posts

Duane Pounds was elected Judge Advocate and Ed Gray was elected Chaplain at the District level. Post 8870 had a strong showing at the recent District meeting held at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club on May 16th with 7 of us attending. Hopefully we will see even more attend the meeting to be held on September 12th. Elmer Johnson from the Snohomish VFW was elected Commander.



Memorial Day—The Ceremony and the Poppies



This picture doesn't do justice to the size of the crowd that attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Edmonds Cemetery. The Seabees were recognized this year with Seabee PO. 3rd Marvin Shields, USN who was from this area and received the Medal of Honor (posthumously) while serving in Vietnam. He is the only Seabee to receive the Medal of Honor. The flag raising was done jointly with the American Legion and, for the first time, the POW/MIA chair was incorporated into the ceremony. Peter Sessum's daughter, Anna, covered the chair although the fit was a bit tight and Dale Hoggins had to jump in to assist her. Next year we need to verify the covering fits the chair before the ceremony (my fault—I brought it). It was particularly fitting as one of the honored guests was a POW held by the Japanese and came within one day of execution before being rescued. In addition to the Mayor giving his remarks and honoring the Seabees, one of our essay winners read his piece for the crowd and did a fine job. For you who did not attend, you are missing a fine event. Irv Schmidt gave me his evaluation of the ceremony and I will print it in full:

Memorial Day at Edmonds Pioneer Cemetery at the North Gate was well represented by our Post, the Scout Troop, and Capt. Bruce Toney of the US Coast Guard. John Bush, Post 8870, and Ervin Schmidt did a great job with our VFW Poppy drive. At 5:00PM our Post picked up all the flags and helped Cliff Edwards put the flags away until the 4th of July. Cliff did a great job on the cemetery. Signed—Ervin Schmidt, TM IIC USN.

Thanks Erv—I always appreciate any articles our members offer. Also, I'm glad Erv mentioned that Erv, Buck Weaver, Duane Pounds, Peter Sessum (and daughter) and your trusty editor put the flags away.

In closing, the cemetery commission and Cliff do a great job at the cemetery to recognize the veterans buried there and supporting the ceremony. Dale Hoggins who has this event for as long as I can remember should be recognized for his support of veterans and organizing this event.

In the picture above, Jim Harkness and Les Abel man the table at the PCC Market at Westgate. We had great participation this year and from what I could tell, things went fairly smoothly. A few shifts needed emergency coverage, but, all in all, everyone made it on-time and at the right location. On the following Tuesday morning, a number of us met at Liz's condo and counted money. It looks like we raised over \$7,200, perhaps a record for the Post. Last year, Fred Apgar experimented with raising funds at Whole Foods in Mill Creek and did quite well. This year we had the store covered with a full shift both days and we raised an amazing amount of money at this location. Good job Fred. Phil Sacks and Bob Crawford did an excellent job of organizing the event and the Post owes a big heartfelt thanks to them. After being Poppy czar for a number of years, Phil will be turning the reins over to Bob next year. With a replenished coffer, we will be working on a budget for the forthcoming year to make sure these funds are spent wisely on deserving projects and individuals.

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.

Flag Day—June 14

As most, or all of you know, the 14th is flag day. The City of Edmonds, or more specifically the fire chief, has not allowed any flag burning ceremonies to be conducted in the city park. However, Post 1040 will conduct a ceremony at the Nile Country Club's picnic area "A" at 1300 hours if you would like to attend.



Minutes from the May 8, 2009 Meeting

The meeting began in proper order at 1245 with Chaplain Ed Gray delivering the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and flag salute. The POW/MIA drape was placed on the vacant chair set aside in their absence as Chaplain Ed Gray said a prayer for their safe return.

The Charter was draped in memory of Jim Braun, who passed away on April 24th. Chaplain Gray offered a prayer for Jim, and then talked of the special friendship he and Jim had developed while sitting together in the library before the start of meetings.

There were 25 members in attendance, including Richard Clyde, formerly of Post 7482, now consolidated with Post 8870, who made the trip from Langley especially to meet the members of the post. Guests were Don Williams, District One Commander, Ron Haley, District One Quartermaster, Elmer Johnson, Commander Post 921 and Senior Vice Commander, District One, and our resident guest Charlie Estes.

The roll call of officers found the Service Officer, Judge Advocate, 1st Year Trustee and 2nd Year Trustee absent. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. The Quartermaster's report for the month of April had been submitted for review to the board at their regular monthly meeting and approved. Copies were available upon request. There were no new members to be inducted.

Surgeon Al Boyett gave the Hospital and Community Service reports to the post. Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks reported that all the slots for distributing poppies at neighborhood markets on Friday, May 22nd and Saturday, May 23rd had been filled with the exception of Saturday at PCC. That day at PCC will be dropped.

Members were encouraged to attend the District One Convention on Saturday, May 16th. Nomination and election of District One officers will be conducted.

Les Abel reminded members of the upcoming Eagle Court of Honor to be held on Saturday, June 6th. He also advised that there will be a flag burning ceremony on Flag Day, June 14th at 1300 at the Nile, Area A. Contact Les at wertrin@horizon.net for more information.

Washington State 89th Annual Convention is to be held June 24th through June 27th in Yakima, WA. Commander Duane Pounds will be attending.

Fourth of July Parade Chairman Rock Roth reported on that upcoming event.

Jim Traner passed around the sign up sheet for the Everett Aqua Sox Baseball Club appreciation night to be held on Friday, July 17th. Contact Jim at JTraner@tranersmith.com for more information.

John Casapiedra, Smokey Pointe Fund Raiser Chairman reported that Post 8870 will be manning the Northbound rest area free coffee kiosk from 1400 Friday, August 28th to 1300 Monday, August 31st. Preparations for that important project are underway.

Post 8870 Ladies Auxiliary were then invited to join the post meeting in order to conduct a joint installation of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary officers for the 2009-2010 term. Don Williams, District One Commander and Carol Williams, District One Ladies Auxiliary President conducted the joint installation.

Installed as VFW Post 8870 officers for 2009-2010 were the following:

Commander Jim Traner	Sr. Vice Commander Rock Roth
Jr. Vice Commander Fred Apgar	Quartermaster Elizabeth Mather
Chaplain Ed Gray	Judge Advocate Phil Sacks
Surgeon Al Boyett	3 rd Year Trustee Duane Pounds

In recognition of their contribution to the VFW, Commander Duane Pounds distributed Continuous Membership Pins to the following members:

Les Abel	5 Years
Ed Gray	5 Years
Barney Siegel	5 Years
Jim Collins	10 Years
Phil Sacks	10 Years
Elizabeth Mather	15 Years
Bob Pounds	20 Years
Jim Traner	40 Years
Charlie Estes	60 Years
Leroy Middleton	60 Years
Erv Schmidt	65 Years

Phil Sacks won the raffle and contributed his half of the \$45 collected to the post.

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



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Name That Park "Fallen Heroes Park" Please

Phil Sacks spotted a little article in the Enterprise about a new park that will be located at the old Woodway Elementary School. The Parks Department is requesting suggestions of a name and we kicked a few ideas around. It was finally agreed to call it Fallen Heroes Park and include not only veterans who were KIA's, but also local safety officers who have died in the line of service. At an American Legion meeting, they also agreed to the name and we have written a joint letter to the Parks Department with the idea. We didn't have the opportunity of everyone's input on this since there was a tight deadline but we did want to make everyone aware of the request.

The Last Word

Whew, I'm beat. Memorial Day is a busy weekend indeed. With Poppy fundraising, flag raising, flag pole retrievals, and counting money the weekend flew by. Almost lost in the hustle is what Memorial Day is all about. Beginning after the Civil War, the event was called Decoration Day and held on May 30th. The exact town where it began is under dispute with approximately 5 towns laying claim to the creation of the event. Recently I read that it probably began at a race track in the South where Union POW's were held. A number of the men died and were buried there, and after the war a Negro regiment honored these men who were forgotten by time. Where it began is not really relevant if you think about it. Why it began and why it continues is important. I think that most of us don't postpone thinking of friends we have lost to a once a year event, but it is important that the nation as a whole spend at least one day a year remembering the brave men and women who have given the last full measure for the country. I was happy to see a large turnout at the cemetery on Monday, although I suspect a large number of them were veterans or families of veterans. While the rest of country is getting a good deal on a mattress or a car, at least some of us were honoring those who deserve to be remembered.