



# VFW Post 8870 and Ladies Auxiliary

July 2012

Volume 8  
Issue 7

## Upcoming Events Calendar

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.

July 4th	Edmonds Parade saluting Global War on Terror Vets. BBQ at Edmonds City Park.
July 11th	Staff Meeting—Traner’s Office 09:15 AM
July 13th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM; Meeting 12:30 PM
July 21 <sup>st</sup> -25th	National VFW Convention, Reno, NV
August 7th	Staff Meeting—Traner’s Office 09:15 AM
August 10th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM—Meeting 12:30 PM
August 25th	District 1 School of Instruction—Lynnwood Boys and Girls Club—Lunch 12 PM Meeting 1 PM

## Fourth of July Parade to Honor Global War on Terror Veterans

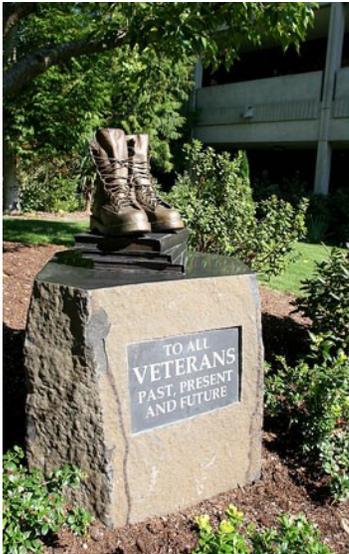
The Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, the VFW, and the American Legion invite you to march in the City of Edmonds Annual Fourth of July Parade honoring service men and women returning from deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism, such as Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. If you have earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal, we want to honor you for your service by inviting you and your family to participate in patriotic fun and fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Edmonds. After the parade, the American Legion and our Post will be hosting a BBQ for Post members and any veterans who wish to march with us in the parade. It will be held at Shelter #2 at the Edmonds City Park on 3rd Ave. S. Of course, the families are also invited. In the evening, there will be special reserved seating area for military families for the concert and fireworks show. For more information and details, and to register to participate, contact Master Chief Koenig at [masterchiefkoenig@gmail.com](mailto:masterchiefkoenig@gmail.com) or by phone at 425-232-6244. To register, submit the following information:

## American Legion to Meet at the Edmonds Senior Center

Many of us are also members of the American Legion Post 66. The Post has now officially vacated its former Post home at 6th and Dayton following the sale of the property. For the immediate future, the Legion will meet at the Senior Center in the Library Room (the former meeting room of our Post) at 6PM on the third Monday of the month with the exception of July when there is no meeting. For those of you who are not members, consider joining the Legion. All of the officers of the Legion are members of our Post so you will feel right at home when you attend the meeting.

- Rate/Rank, Name
- Branch of service
- Unit
- When and where you served (include all deployments)
- Number of family members who will be attending
- Email address and phone number

## Boots to Books—ECC



Going from boots to books can be a challenge.

We'll support you as you work toward your professional goals and make sure you know about the resources available to you and your family.

**Make your transition from military to civilian life with us!**

Visit our Veterans Resource Center  
Lynnwood Hall 236 | 425.640.1175  
[www.edcc.edu/veterans](http://www.edcc.edu/veterans)

“How far would you go to make a better life for you, and to maintain the same privileges you enjoy for your children?”

—Troy Montgomery, alumni and past president Club Vet



Our college abides by Washington state's guidelines for Veteran Supportive Campuses. Source: [www.dva.wa.gov/veteran\\_campuses.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/veteran_campuses.html)

Edmonds Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race; color; religion; national origin; sex; disability; sexual orientation; age; citizenship, marital, or veteran status; or genetic information in its programs and activities. 11-12-104



I don't know how many of you were in school after returning from Nam, but I never saw an ad like this in the U of W Daily in 1969. As a veteran you kept a low profile and just found other veterans to hang around with. So contrast that era with this one and how Edmonds Community College welcomes their veterans. This is an ad that was developed by Michelle Graves, a member of the ECC College Relations staff and is posted online at <http://www.communitywarvets.org>. Post member Troy Montgomery is pictured above and, as many of you know, Post 8870 was instrumental in assisting the fund raising for the Boots to Book monument. When I was sent the link to the poster, I immediately asked for permission to show it in our newsletter as I want the Post to know that ECC is treating our veterans the way they should be treated. By dedicating resources of both dollars and labor to assist veterans in making the transition to becoming “student veterans”, the college is reaching out to its veteran population and welcoming them home. We tip our hats to them and hope that each and every veteran out there takes advantage of the GI Bill and the various programs that ECC provides to them.

## Guidelines for Community Service & Hospital Reports

I asked Al Boyett, Post Surgeon, to provide some examples of what qualifies for the Community and Hospital Reports. As most of you know who attend the meetings, Al passes around a clipboard with sheet where you indicate what you have done in the past month in the way of community service. Here are a few ideas, but the list could fill a book. Just make a note to yourself when you're involved in assisting a vet, etc. to make sure you put the time done when the checklist gets to you. In fact, I just realized I never put my time down in preparing this newsletter which is distributed to a great deal of individuals outside of the VFW to let them know what we do.

Donations to thrift stores....items or money

Food banks.....volunteer time or money

Yard work for seniors

Giving talks at schools

Visiting vets in hospitals

Visiting vets in nursing homes and retirement homes

Writing letters for veterans or seniors

Neighborhood crime watch

Transportation for the disabled to meetings or shopping

Volunteering at hospitals or clinics

Election day volunteering

Voice of Democracy committee work

Patriot Pen committee work

Boy Scout, Explorer Scout, Sea Scout programs

Joint programs with the American Legion

Buddy Poppy volunteering

Helping local street clean up

Participate in parades.....Memorial Day, July 4th and others

So that gives you an idea of what qualifies. If you have any questions, contact Al ([bboys@quixnet.net](mailto:bboys@quixnet.net)) or just write it down and Al will toss it if it doesn't qualify. For those of you who can't make it to a meeting, drop Al an email with your information and he will include it in his reporting to Department.

## New Officers Installed



District One Commander Ron Haley presided over the installation of the Post's new officers for 2012-2013. Fred Apgar, the new Commander, led his officers during their oath of office. The list of new officers can be found at the "Officers" tab at the Post's website. We have new faces on the staff this year and we look forward to their ideas and energy as we move forward into the 2012-13 VFW year.

## The Ladies Auxliary President's Column Arlene Endresen

I would like to take this time to thank Valerie Ehlers for this past year of her presidency, for all her hard work and loyalty to the Ladies Aux club, and to the men of the VFW.

I would also like to thank all of the Veterans that have served our country and given their lives to ensure that our freedom continues. I will do what I can to support the VFW and their families.

My 89 year old father is a WWII Veteran in the Pacific Islands, and Past President, for five years, of Poulsbo/Kingston Post 2463. Every memorial day for the last 10 years my dad and I have placed flags on the Veterans graves at 4 cemeteries in Poulsbo. He had done this for many years prior to my helping him. It is with respect and honor that I do this with my father.

What this Ladies club needs is a shot in the arm with new members. I will bring in many and I would like all of you veterans to ask again your spouse or family members to join the Ladies Aux. We then can support your club activities. Tell them we need new blood and new ideas and new friends.

## New Member Profiles—Pete Farmer, Membership Chairman

John Westfall

John is a Brier, WA native and now resides there with wife Deborah. They have two sons and one grandson. John is the Fire Marshall for Snohomish County Fire District I. John served with the United States Navy 1983-2010 and was a Combat Swimmer/SEAL. He's a retired Senior Chief Petty Officer. Overseas duty included the Philippines 2008 and Iraq 2009. Decorations include Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3), Navy Achievement Medal (3) and Good Conduct Medal.

Charles Saint Jr

Charles served in the Air Force 1977-1988 as a Signals Intelligence Officer and was last a Captain. He graduated from the Air Command Staff College. He served overseas in Korea, as well as Goodfellow, Kelly and Mountain Home AFB's stateside. Awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 OLC. Charles has degrees from Arizona State and Sul Ross University. He is a retired law enforcement officer. Originally from Phoenix, Charles resides in Mill Creek with wife Jill. They have two sons and a daughter. Charles Saint III, one of the sons, is a current member of Post 8870.

Michael Andrews

Michael, a VFW Member At Large, is joining Post 8870. He served with the US Navy in Bosnia/Kosovo, Operations Resolute Response and Silver Knight. He served on the USS Austin. Michael resides in Snohomish, WA.

## Chaplain's Corner—Rock Roth

Little mention was made in our mainstream news media of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Midway. The Battle opened on 4 June 1942 approximately 6 months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The Battle of Midway was fought between US and Japanese Naval Forces approximately 150 miles north of Midway Island. For your information, Midway is located approximately 1,128 nautical miles northwest of Hawaii. I flew out for Midway from mid 1959 until late 1962 as part of the Pacific Distant Early Warning or DEW Line. Even at that late date, almost 20 years after that historic battle, evidence was still visible in the waters surrounding both Sand and Eastern Islands, the two islands that make up Midway.

To appreciate just how important the Battle of Midway was to our victory in the Pacific, it might prove useful to answer the following question, “What are the 10 most important facts about the Battle of Midway?”

- A lesser naval force defeated a superior naval force.
- The US ability to crack Japan's radio code led to Japan's defeat.
- Main ships were not battleships...they were aircraft carriers.
- The result stopped Japan's Pacific expansion.
- The result increased the morale of the U.S. Navy as well as the American people
- Having the Carrier Yorktown available showed that the Pearl Harbor raid six-months earlier missed a main target - the dry repair docks.
- The loss of four front-line carriers by Japan was due to not having adequate "CAP" or "Combat Air Patrol" (a/k/a an umbrella) over the carriers – the Japanese fighters were ‘pulled down’ by Torpedo 8 who were the first to arrive on scene; flying relatively slow and obsolete aircraft, they commenced their torpedo attack without bombers and fighters; Torpedo 8 lost all its aircraft and all but one of its aircrew.
- The victory by the U.S. at Midway became the turning point of the Pacific Theater in WWII.
- By defeating Japan at Midway, the U.S. was able to begin the "island hopping" campaign to bring the war to Japan's home islands.
- It was only the second time that a naval battle was fought by ships who never sighted each other (both sets of ships were over each other's horizon). The first was the Battle of Coral Sea a month earlier.

Why is the aforementioned important and why is it mentioned in the “Chaplain's Corner”? The Battle of Midway changed the course of history. Japan certainly was far from defeated and the world faced another 3 years of war in the Pacific. However, Japan was never again able to effectively take the offensive. It is significant that she lost 4 aircraft carriers and embarked aircraft; however, it is even more significant that she lost irreplaceable skilled personnel including skilled and experienced carrier pilots. She was never able to recover from that loss. Many of the historians who have studied the Battle of Midway attribute the US victory to luck, ‘the draw of the cards’, fate, et al. To others historians, your Chaplain included, we attribute America's victory to the Hand of God. I am one who strongly believes that God controls America's destiny. As we celebrate Independence Day, it is important that we remember that in our Declaration of Independence, God is referred to under 4 different names: (1) Nature's God, (2) Creator, (3) Supreme Judge of the World, and (4) Divine Providence. We are “One nation under God.”

### **Let us pray**

We bow before Thee, our Heavenly Father, in humble prayer thanking Thee for the manifold blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us, in this our beloved land. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the sacred institutions of America. Preserve these inspired concepts. Let not the adversity of Light and Truth destroy freedom, worship, and divine faith. Bless those who direct our nation. Remember, O God, those who bear arms. Bless the homes from which they come. Forgive our errors and weakness turning from the wrong and unprofitable ways. We pray for the early triumph of righteousness, truth, and peace founded in the brotherhood of man. This we ask in Thy Precious Name. Amen

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**The Last Word**

As I begin my tour of duty as your Commander, I want to recognize the outstanding record of accomplishments that have been achieved by this Post over the past three years with Jim Traner as our Commander. His leadership has been extraordinary, and Jim has worked tirelessly on behalf of the membership to make Post # 8870 a highly visible and positive influence within the Edmonds and Mukilteo communities. The Post has been restored to fiscal stability, and thanks to his inspiration, our Poppy collections have far exceeded past efforts. It was Jim's vision that expanded Relief Fund efforts to provide assistance to veterans and active duty personnel at the local level and to support our youth by establishing the Freedom Scholarship. It was Jim's recommendation that provided financial assistance to Boy/Girl Scouts and Little League as well as supporting a local Cadet Civil Air Patrol squadron. Commander Traner reached out to the Nisei Veterans Committee and established a relationship that has been rewarding for both organizations. Jim prepares the Post's award winning monthly newsletter and maintains our web site. Perhaps, the greatest single accomplishment during his three year tenure as Post Commander has been the dramatic increase in our membership, and many of those new members were personally recruited by Jim. For each of Jim's three years as Commander our membership has exceeded 100%.

Jim will continue to serve VFW as the newly elected District I Commander. It is my hope that the members of Post #8870 will continue to enthusiastically support Jim in this new role by attending District I meetings and volunteering to serve whenever help is needed. On behalf of the members of Post #8870, I want to thank Jim for his dedicated service to VFW and congratulate him for the significant contributions he has made. Jim, we salute you!