



VFW Post 8870

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

Page 1

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July 4th Parade



Commander Duane Pounds and the “riders” prepare to kick off at the staging area of the parade. Some of our members even have their steel pots but most of us just wore our VFW hats. Next year we hope to have some authentic military vehicles for our members to ride the route.



Post Commander Duane Pounds & Past Commander Buck Weaver before the parade. Duane just turned 80 and Buck is turning 90 shortly. It should be noted that Buck walked the parade while Duane drove a car. Buck says when he turns 100, he'll think about riding so long as Duane isn't driving.



A view from the rear of the formation as we marched(?) up 5th Avenue. As you can see, the crowds lined both sides of the street for the entire route. Both the American Legion and VFW Posts 8870 & 1040 marched together in unity. Colors for all the organizations were presented. Hopefully, the VVA group will join us next year.



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.

Meeting Place & Time

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.



The Post Raises Money via EBAY

Just a reminder that Earl Prebezac is seeking items to put on EBAY to help the Post raise funds for general operations. Earl can be reached at 425-778-4925 if you have any questions or need to drop items off with him.

Smokey Point Rest Area Fund Raiser

John Casapiedra (jcasapiedra@yahoo.com) has volunteered to be the chair for the Smokey Point detail. Basically what this entails is manning a small room at the rest stop and providing coffee and snacks to weary travelers. I suspect we have all run into a group of volunteers manning a rest stop in our travels. This is an opportunity to raise funds for the Post's general fund as all the Buddy Poppy proceeds are for the relief fund and not available to support Post activities. We will be required to have two volunteers on duty from 1400 hours on Monday August 11th until 1300 Hours on Wednesday August 13th. John still has openings so contact him at the above email address or at 206-440-9152 if you would like to assist the Post. In addition to arranging volunteers, John is also in the process of obtaining food and coffee supplies. John says he needs 4 large coffee urns, coffee, plastic spoons, foam cups, powdered decaf coffee, tea bags, Orange Tang, etc. Of course we will also need donuts, cookies, rolls, etc. John & Phil Sacks are contacting local stores so I would suggest that you co-ordinate any efforts with either of them so we aren't competing against ourselves.

John took a few pictures of another group volunteering at the Smokey Point Rest area and I've included them so you can get a feel of the operation before arriving there.



According to John, all the food shown on the shelves will served over a 24 hour so it gives you some idea of the amount of food we will have to secure before the August deadline. The picture at the right shows the security in place for the volunteers. We will be inside with a plexiglass window between us and the customers.

Past Post Commander Warren Schweppe Dies

Warren passed away following open heart surgery on July 10th. While not currently active in the Post, Warren volunteered and participated in the Buddy Poppy program and assisted us on Memorial Day weekend. Services were held at Holy Rosary Church and a number of VFW and American Legion members attended the services. The charter will draped in the August meeting in memory and respect for Warren.

Fred Apgar now the Chair for Arranging Speakers

Fred Apgar has volunteered to head up a committee of one to arrange speakers for the Post meetings. Fred is a new member to the Post and is from Centerport, NY. Since most of us must know at least one or two interesting speakers, pass them on to Fred and make his life easy. Remember, as a general rule, people who are selling generally don't make good speakers. Also, even though you may be interested in Tibetan basket weaving, not everyone may share the same interest so try to recommend a speaker to Fred who has broad appeal to the group.

Voice of Democracy & The Edmonds Night Out

The Edmonds Police Foundation presented its 5th Annual Edmonds Night Out on Tuesday, July 29th from 5PM to 8PM. Rock Roth, John Nutting, Les Abel, & Fred Apgar manned the table provided to the VFW/American Legion and used the opportunity to raise awareness of the Voice of Democracy contest and promote the veterans organizations. It remains to be seen whether the effort will produce tangible results, but it did give our veteran's groups the opportunity to interface with the youth of our community and raise our awareness with them.

A Little Vietnam Trivia

An M-16 magazine had a 20 round capacity but only 18 rounds were typically loaded in it. Why?

Answer: The magazine had a weak spring. To preserve the magazine's spring, it was compressed with only 18 rounds. Result—90% efficiency.



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Late Breaking News

A couple of late items. John Casapiedra had a bit of medical problem and Jim Adams has agreed to take over the chairmanship of the Smokey Point Rest Area project. I'm sure either one of them can answer any questions you may have, however. I'm assuming John will be at the next meeting. Also, we are making plans for a picnic in the Edmonds Park in mid-September. Let me know if you have preferences to dates. I'll arrange to rent one of the shelters once we nail a date down.

The Last Word

I noticed when I was putting the articles in the newsletter this month the term that seem to come up in each one was "volunteer". What has particularly impressed me each and every meeting, is the fact that members step up and meet the opportunity to not only sign the various sign-up sheets that are passed around, but also the wiliness of members to take charge and lead in those efforts. Phil Sacks, Rock Roth, John Casapiedra, Phil Apgar, Bob Crawford, and Jim Adams, to mention just a few names, have all stepped forward recently to volunteer their time to the post in a leadership position. Of course, the Post officers from the surgeon (Al Boyett) to the quartermaster (Liz Mather) to the Service Officer (Roosevelt Ward) put countless hours into each month and are recognized for their extraordinary fine work. They are the coxswains of the scull, the rest of us just row away. But these other troopers, together with those who assist them, make the Post an active and vibrant force in our community. I recently attended the School of Instruction with Commander Pounds and Quartermaster Mather. I had the opportunity to chat with commanders from other Posts. One of those commanders, an Iraqi veteran, was lamenting the fact they could not even achieve a quorum at their meetings in a post about our size. So to all those who step forward and participate in the Buddy Poppy program, The Patriot's Pen, the Smokey Point fund raiser, Edmonds Night Out or the other activities we are involved in, I tip my hat to you. Your volunteerism is what makes this Post the best Post in the District.



VFW POST 8870 Minutes from July 11, 2008 Meeting

The meeting began in proper order at 1235. In the absence of a chaplain, Buck Weaver led the post in the singing of "America the Beautiful" which was followed by a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 22 members in attendance. Guests were Earl Horn of Post 1040, Martin Spani, Past District One Commander, and resident guest Charlie Estes. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer and Chaplain absent. There were no new applications for membership. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as published. The Quartermaster's report was approved as read.

Commander Duane Pounds informed the post of the death on July 10th of Post 8870 Past Commander Warren Schweppe after heart bypass surgery. Draping of the charter will be held at the August meeting with Mrs. Schweppe in attendance if she should so desire.

Post 1040 Commander Martin Spani spoke to the group about the program "Honor Flight" which allows World War II veterans and any veteran facing terminal illness to fly to Washington, D.C. free of charge to visit at memorials built in their honor. Applications were handed out to eligible veterans. More information is available at veteranapplication@honorflight.org

Commander Pounds presented the following awards distributed at the State Conference to:

Jim Traner – newsletter – small post 3rd place award

Al Boyett – Community Service and Hospital outstanding service awards

Buck Weaver and Al Boyett - outstanding citizenship, education and Americanism programs

Post 8870 and Ladies Auxiliary - Hallmark Musical Cards Overseas Project award

Phil Sacks – Buddy Poppy Program award

Commander Duane Pounds called on Ken Chaplain to read the thank you letter he received from the Senior Center for his generous contribution of \$300 to improve the Center's sound system in the cafeteria.

Barney Siegel reported that he is donating his M-1 rifle for use by the post. Phil Sacks will see that the rifle is taken to the Police Department and that the serial number of the rifle is properly recorded.

A CD entitled "We Are Americans" was played which showed the flag presentation ceremony and reception conducted by Room 6 Second Grade, Sherwood Elementary School. Post 8870 received a request for donations to purchase new US flags for the classrooms to replace those old and worn, and responded with sufficient funds to purchase 18 new flags for the school. The ceremony was attended by members of the post, and the CD was shown at a Service Learning Conference held at Seattle University in June.

Americanism Chairman Buck Weaver reminded the post of the upcoming Arlington Air show and thanked members of the post for its participation in the 4th of July parade. Post 8870 and the American Legion combined forces in the parade and good comments were heard from spectators. Buck also recommended that the post get a group together to visit the Nisei facility in downtown Seattle.

John Casapiedra, Smokey Point Rest Stop fund raiser Chairman, passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers to man the rest stop from Monday August 11 at 2 in the afternoon until Wednesday August 13 at 1 in the afternoon. Jim Adams volunteered to help John in the fund raising project.

A motion was made to pay \$165.52 for 6 Post 8870 signs. The motion was seconded and carried.

Jim Traner will reserve a picnic shelter at Edmonds Municipal Park for sometime in mid-September for a social gathering. More to come in the newsletter.

Fred Apgar volunteered to be the Program/Speaker Chairman.

A motion to pay Commander Pounds half of the overage in conference expenses - \$45.19 was made, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Irv Schmidt has three books available for purchase, one of which tells the story of "Rosie the Riveter." Five dollars of the purchase price goes to the post.

Historian Leroy Middleton posed the question: There were two civilians in World War II who were awarded the Bronze Star. One of them was Ernie Pyle – who was the other? The answer: Joey Brown, who traveled at his own expense to USO's worldwide to entertain the troops.

The winning raffle draw was donated to the post. There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. Rock Roth, as acting Chaplain led the post in the closing prayer. The meeting closed at 1400 with a flag salute.