



# VFW Post 8870

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

September 1, 2009  
Volume 3  
Issue 9

## Calendar 2009-2010

September 12th	District I Conference & School of Instruction—Noon -Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
September 20th	Visit Veterans Museum. Meet at Senior Center at 1100 hrs. for departure
November 1st	Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy Essays Deadline Teacher of the Year Deadline
November 6th-7th	Veteran's Day Poppy Fundraiser
November 7th	District I Conference—Noon Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
January 9th, 2010	District I Conference—Post 8870 will host
March 1st	Scout of the Year Scholarship Application
March 6, 2010	District I Conference—Noon- Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 1st, 2010	District I Convention—Noon- Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
June 24th-25th	State Convention—Vancouver, WA

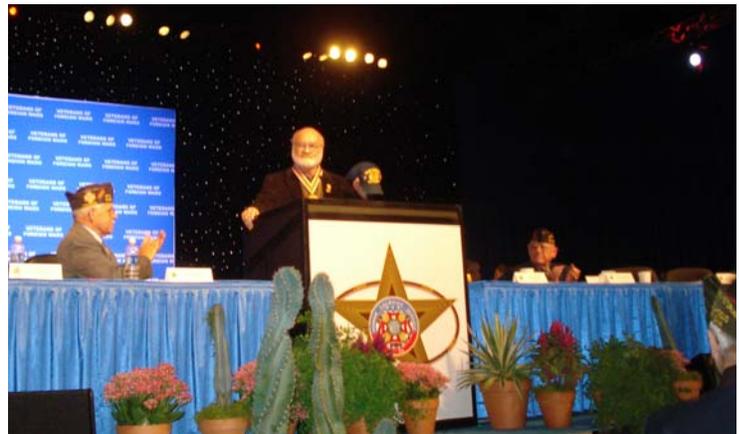
## Join Us at the Veterans Museum

On September 20th we will leave the Senior Center parking lot at 1100 hrs. and drive to the Veterans Museum in Chehalis. We will car pool and we have enough vehicles to fit everyone in that wishes to go. I will make a guarantee to anyone who does make the trip, you will not be disappointed. The museum has exhibits covering every conflict from the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan. And every exhibit has a story behind it, some very fascinating. This is a good way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and I hope we can get a good turnout for this outing.

## Charter to be Draped

Mr. Julius Groom, long time member of the Clinton Post which recently merged with Post 8870, passed away on August 15th. Mr. Groom was a Seabee serving in the South Pacific during WWII. We will drape the charter in his memory at the next meeting on September 11th. Chaplin Gray has communicated with the family on behalf of the Post giving them our condolences on their loss.

## Mike Reagan Receives the Commander-in-Chief's Gold Medal Award at the VFW National Convention in Phoenix



Mike was recognized for his outstanding work in supporting military families who have lost spouses, sons, and daughters or parents primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing, for no charge, portraits of their fallen heroes. During the ceremony, Mike presented the Commander-in-Chief a portrait he had drawn of him from a photograph secretly provided to him by the publication department of the VFW magazine. While the Commander-in-Chief had received a number of presents during the 4 days I attended the convention, I don't think any of them made as big an impact on him as Mike's gift did. The award given to Mike was very special; only a few are presented each year and Mike was extremely gracious in accepting the award. On stage with Mike were two members of his squad who served with him in Vietnam. It was a special moment for everyone involved.

## Smokey Point Fund Raiser

A big word of thanks to John Casapiedra for organizing the Smokey Point rest area fund raiser and also to the troops who manned the rest area during the 3 days we had it. It was too close to the publication deadline to get a final accounting of how we did, but I will have the numbers shortly and share them with you at the next meeting.

## Upcoming Speakers

September 11, 2009	Mr. John Lee, WA State Department of Veterans Affairs
October 9, 2009	Glenn Holloway, WWII POW
November 13, 2009	Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Winners
December 11, 2009	Holiday musical entertainment



## Remembering Daryl Pounds

Most of you will know the last name but only be familiar with Duane or Bob—our Post members. Daryl was their brother and Duane passed along an interesting article about him written in 1946. Like Duane, Daryl was a navy veteran. Daryl served on destroyers during WWII and was in the invasion of Sicily, France, Mindoro, Luzon, and Iwo Jima. In one instance, a Kamikaze missed him by a scant 10 feet. Interestingly, Daryl held the title of Navy League Table Tennis Champion. I'm not sure how many guys were in the Navy, but I suspect he was a pretty awesome table tennis player. I haven't confirmed whether Bob or Duane could beat him but it does seem like a stretch of the imagination.

## Lesley Kaplan— Edmonds Librarian Speaks to Post on Upcoming Bond



Ms. Kaplan, Manager, Edmonds Library, gave an informative talk on the financial issues facing Sno-Isle Library and what we could do to assist them. The Edmonds Library has the VFW magazine in their library courtesy of our Post. As a side note, Ms. Kaplan was the only librarian to send us a note of thanks for providing them with the magazine. A tip of the hat and a yes vote to the Edmonds Library.

## Need A Lift?

If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email at [quartermaster@VFW8870.org](mailto:quartermaster@VFW8870.org). 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.

## President Obama Addresses VFW Convention



President Obama spoke at the National VFW convention in Phoenix which your editor attended. The speech mostly covered defense spending and military readiness, however, the President did assure the VFW that any form of health care reform would not affect VA medical benefits, now or in the future.

## Charter Draped for Fred Starkweather

The charter was draped for Fred Starkweather, a longtime member of the Clinton Post. Chaplain Ed Gray lead the Post in prayer remembering our fallen comrade. In addition, members from the Clinton side of the water attended his services as representatives from our Post. Again, we wish to give our condolences to the family of Mr. Starkweather.



## Post Shines in Annual Audit

Thanks to the efforts of our fine Quartermaster Elizabeth Mather, the Post passed its annual audit with flying colors. The audit, conducted by Ed Sherman, covered a number of items including both financial, management, and membership. Although the members don't see it, Liz puts in a lot of hours preparing for this annual event and she deserves our gratitude. On another note, I was speaking to a Post Commander from Texas while attending the annual convention and he mentioned several Posts in that state lost their charters for failing their audits—so it is a serious and important task.



### **Post Presents Donation to Mike Reagan's Fallen Heroes Project**



Mike Reagan accepts a check on behalf of the Fallen Heroes Project from the Post. Mike's project is one that the Post heartedly supports. Mike recently has done portraits for families in the UK and Canada as his work becomes known internationally and families contact him. The British Army News has recently contacted Mike about interviewing him. As Mike said, "...these guys are our brothers."

### **Phil Sacks Awarded for Buddy Poppy Program**



Elmer Johnson, District I Commander and Duane Pounds, Past Commander of Post 8870, present Phil with a National Recognition Award for his leadership in our successful Buddy Poppy program. Phil is retiring from poppies this year so he went out with a bang.

### **Beth Anne Mather—Honored by Mike Reagan**



In a surprise presentation to Quartermaster Elizabeth Mather, Mike Reagan's gives to Elizabeth a portrait of her daughter, Beth Anne. Beth Anne, who died while on active duty with the Navy, was an Ensign. The Post rose in honor of Beth Anne, Liz, and Mike. It was a heartfelt ceremony and we thank Mike for his thoughtfulness to this marvelous woman and her daughter.

### **Mike Reagan & Jim Traner at VFW National Convention**



At the risk of overexposing Mike Reagan on this page, I had to put in one last picture of Mike and your Commander/Editor at the national convention in front of the VFW Publication booth after Mike received his award. This is an honor we can be proud of as a Post.



## Minutes from the August 14, 2009 Meeting

Twenty-six members assembled for the monthly post meeting. Commander Jim Traner welcomed guests District One Commander Elmer Johnson and District One Inspector Ed Sherman. The charter was draped in memory of Fred Starkweather, a long time member of the Clinton Post, now merged with Post 8870. Fred Apgar introduced guest speaker Lesley Kaplan, Manager of the Edmonds Library, who spoke of how the library has been impacted by the economic downtown, affecting not only users of the library and its services, but also how decreased tax revenue has resulted in cuts in the Sno-Isle library budget. Lesley was accompanied by Finance Director Arch Fonken. A certificate of appreciation from the post was presented to Lesley, and a donation to the Michael Reagan Portrait Foundation "Fallen Heroes Project" was made by the post on Lesley's behalf.

Chaplain Ed Gray led the assembly in the opening prayer, which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "America" led by Buck Weaver. Officer of the Day John Casapiedra draped the POW/MIA vacant chair while Chaplain Ed Gray said a prayer for their safe return.

Commander Jim Traner declared Post 8870 duly opened for the transaction of business. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer absent. There were no new applications for submission and no new recruits to be inducted. The minutes of the July 10, 2009 meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. The Quartermaster's Report for the month of July 2009 was accepted as read.

Chaplain Ed Gray will send a sympathy card to the family of recently deceased member Fred Starkweather.

Smokey Point Fundraising Chairman John Casapiedra reported on the status of readiness for the upcoming coffee kiosk fundraiser scheduled for the weekend of August 28<sup>th</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup>.

District One Commander Elmer Johnson distributed the following National Recognition Awards which were presented to Post 8870 at the State conference:

Voice of Democracy	Fred Apgar
Patriot's Pen	Rock Roth
Americanism	Rock Roth and Fred Apgar
Safety Programs	Duane Pounds
Hospital Reports	Al Boyett
Community Service Reports	Al Boyett
Buddy Poppy	Phil Sacks
2nd Place Newsletter Award for Small Posts	Jim Traner

Buddy Poppy Chairman Bob Crawford reminded the post to set aside the dates on their calendars for the upcoming Veterans Day poppy collection scheduled for Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Commander Jim Traner reminded potential volunteers that the post will be heavily involved in Veterans Day Programs at local schools again this year and to be sure to keep dates available for those events.

Michael Reagan was presented with a check for \$1,000 in appreciation for the work he has done for veterans' families through his "Fallen Heroes Project". Mike stated that he has done over 1800 free portraits so far and has expanded his outreach to families in Great Britain and Canada. A surprise portrait will be presented to the National Commander in Chief at the National Convention in Phoenix. Mike then presented the Quartermaster with the portrait he voluntarily rendered in memory of Ensign Beth Anne Mather. Commander Jim Traner reminded the post of the upcoming events taking place in the area. Sign up sheets for these events were made available outside the meeting room. This sign in procedure will be followed for all future events and information will be made available in the post newsletters.

District One Inspector Ed Sherman reported that the annual inspection went well and that the post did an outstanding job. Fred Apgar won the raffle and donated his half of the \$34 collected to the Post General Fund.

At the direction of the Commander, Officer of the Day John Casapiedra retired the POW/MIA chair cover, Chaplain Ed Gray led the post in the closing prayer, the flag was retired and the business session of Post 8870 was declared closed.

The next scheduled monthly post meeting will be held on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1230 with lunch available at noon for purchase at the VFW reserved tables for a suggested donation of \$3.00. There will be a board meeting on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 0900 in Jim Traner's officer.



**And Now a Word from Our Advertisers**

Phone 425-670-8912

STEPHEN C. JOHNSON, R. Rh

**J & J PHARMACY**

LOCATED AT EDMONDS PROFESSIONAL CENTER

7315 - 212TH S.W., EDMONDS, WA 98026

*Traner* James M. Traner CPA, Partner  
*Smith* 110 James Street, Suite 106  
& Edmonds, WA 98020-8430  
*Company* Telephone 425-640-8650 Fax 425-640-8655  
Jtraner @tranersmith.com  
*P.S.* **Certified Public Accountants**

**Ameriprise  
Financial**

**Robert J. Smith, CFP®, ChFC®**  
Senior Financial Advisor  
Business Financial Advisor

**RJ Smith & Associates**  
A private wealth advisory practice of  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

110 James St., Suite 105  
Edmonds, WA 98020

Tele: 425-640-8650 Toll Free 1-800-444-9115  
robert.j.smith@ampf.com  
www.rjsmithandassociates.com  
CA Insurance #0835016

Connie Kopp, Realtor®

425-408-3028

ConnieK@windermere.com



Single Family Home  
Sales are My Specialty!

Call me for a free consultation.

425-408-3028



**The Last Word**

I attended the national convention in Phoenix for really only one reason, being present when Mike Reagan received his award from the Commander-in-Chief of the VFW. In that sense, attending the meeting was successful as I was on stage at the presentation and helped Mike present a portrait Mike had drawn to the C in C. But on a bigger scale, I found the experience to be quite rewarding with the President of the US addressing the convention, Connie Stevens receiving a reward for her years of service in entertaining the troops with Bob Hope and the USO, and a number of very interesting speakers. As important and entertaining as those speakers were, the real "fringe benefit" was meeting a couple of guys from Mike's squad he had served with in Vietnam. They hadn't seen each other in 40 years and it was an honor being present at the reunion. We were all in Vietnam at the same time, me down in III Corp with the Army while they were in I Corp with the Marines. Never-the-less, as Connie Stevens said when she addressed the conference, the minute you were "in-country" you belonged to a very closed fraternity and that fraternity grew a lot tighter as you got down the squad, or, in my case, "track" level. Listening to "Doc", "Spin" and "Red" trade stories was pretty darn interesting. I did end up questioning whether I Corp rats were actually bigger than III Corp rats—a question which will bear further research although they claimed their rats were gigantic and I could only claim that ours were huge. During Mike's presentation, he paused to introduce the three of us and made a special point to mention Doc's MOS as a combat medic. As Mike said, "the bravest of the brave are the combat medics" to which I can only echo, amen. So I was glad I attended, not only to see Mike receive the highest award that VFW can bestow on an individual, but to see a reunion 40 years in the making.