



VFW Post 8870

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

October 1, 2009
Volume 3
Issue 10

Calendar 2009-2010

November 1st	Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy Essays Deadline Police, Firefighter, & EMT of the year deadline Teacher of the Year Deadline
November 6th-7th	Veteran's Day Poppy Fundraiser
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

Mike Reagan's Gold Medal Award



Mike shared his thoughts on receiving the highest award VFW has to offer with the Post at the September meeting. The presentation was made at the National VFW Convention at Phoenix in August. Congratulations is in order for Mike.

John Lee, WA State Veterans Affairs



John Lee gave an excellent speech at the September 11th meeting. John, a Vietnam Vet and retired Army Command Sergeant, addressed our Post about remembering 9/11 and then went on to give some important insights as to the state of veterans affairs in WA state. He also said that when we run into a veteran who is having any difficulties with the system we should get their name, telephone number, and email address if they have one. It is not necessary to get any information as to the problem. We should then contact him with the information and he will contact the veteran directly to determine the exact problem and hopefully, the solution necessary to correct the situation. John's phone number is 1-360-725-2152 for future reference.

Smokey Point Rest Area



Thanks again to John Casapiedra for organizing the Smokey Point rest area fund raiser. It appears that we collected nearly \$1,000 in donations which will go a long way in running Post operations for another year. Shown above is Les Abel and Phil Sacks manning the booth.

Upcoming Speakers

October 9, 2009	Glenn Holloway, WWII POW
November 13, 2009	Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Winners
December 11, 2009	Holiday musical entertainment



Members Buck Weaver, Elizabeth Mather, & Dexter Miller Present 9/11

Buck Weaver led the group in song, Elizabeth Mather presented a speech commemorating 9/11, and Dexter Miller led the group in prayer as Post 8870 presented a program to the Senior Center. In addition, Les Abel and Jim Traner attended the ceremonies. The three representatives from our Post who were on stage were warmly received by the breakfast crowd and the staff of the SCSC were grateful for our participation in their program. Kudos to all three members. Just as an aside, it is important that we are visible in the community and Liz, Buck, and Dexter should be congratulated for representing us at this important function.



Change in Rules at the National

While at the National Convention, I stopped by the National Cemetery Administration's booth and found out that either the family or the family's funeral director may make arrangements for interment at a national cemetery. The Scheduling Office phone number is 1-800-535-1117. When you call, you will need to be able to verify eligibility of the veteran with discharge documents or VA claim numbers. Again, make sure your next of kin can readily locate these items. For additional information, you can go to www.cem.va.gov

Need A Lift?

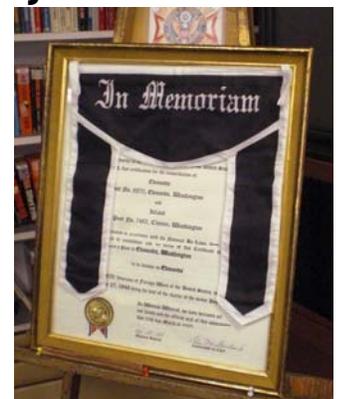
If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email at quartermaster@VFW8870.org. On the other hand, if you are interested in providing transportation to a fellow member, let Liz know and she can match riders with drivers.

President Memorial Certificates

A little known program came to my attention. Family and friends of a deceased veteran may request a President Memorial Certificate which acknowledges their service to our county and is signed by the President. For more information, contact our Quartermaster or go to www.cem.va.gov and get form VA-40-0247.

Charter Draped for Julius Groom

The charter was draped for Julius Groom, a member of the former Clinton Post which merged with Post 8870. Acting Chaplain Rock Roth led the Post in prayer remembering our fallen comrade. Again, we wish to give our condolences to the family of Mr. Groom. As is the custom in VFW, the charter remains draped for 30 days following the passing of a member.





Poppy Sign-up Sheets

Ok—you know who you are. You're the guy that spent 12 years in school sitting in the back row of class and you now sit in the back row of the pews still avoiding eye contact. And now we know who you are—you're the guy who hasn't signed up to do poppies since Nixon was in office. But be prepared, our Quartermaster will be sending signup sheets to everyone via email and Bob Crawford, poppy chairman, plans on calling everyone. So we will be seeing you on November 6 and 7th participating in raising donations by handing out poppies which is a relatively painless endeavor. If everyone pitches in, we can get by with one shift per person and with two guys per shift, it's a great way to get to meet your fellow members.



Report on the Veterans Museum Trip

So what were you doing on 9/20/09 at 1100 hrs.? For a number of us, we were heading down to the Veterans Museum and spending a very interesting day getting a guided tour of the exhibits that began with the Minutemen and the Revolutionary War and ended with several exhibits from Afghanistan and Iraq. The tour, which lasted several hours, gave us a number of interesting and obscure facts. For instance, who was the first American to learn of Stalin's death. Believe it or not, it was Johnny Cash who at the time was in the Air Force and assigned to a very ultra-secret unit that eavesdropped on the Russians. I think every one of us thoroughly enjoyed the Museum and the comradeship. After the tour was completed, we ate lunch in the Museums canteen and then headed out to I-5 for the slog home. All in all, for those of you that missed it, you may want to make the trip on your own and I think you would get that recommendation from everyone who was there on the 20th. Just as side note, Post 1040 may be making the same tour next spring. If they do, I will try to give everyone a heads up as to the time and date.

Frank Martinez—Freedom Team Salute Program



Frank Martinez of Post 1040 and representing District 1, attended our meeting and handed out Team Salute awards. Team Salute is an Army program designed to reconnect Army Veterans with the Army.

Quoting Colonel David Griffith who addressed the national VFW convention in August "The Army wants to recognize all VFW Army Veterans and honor them with Freedom Team Salute Commendations. We want to build a partnership that benefits the Army and the VFW by engaging individuals and organizations that support the VFW and the Army mission. Our goal is to have an enduring and mutually beneficial partnership that will help expand the Army family."

Thanks to Frank, a number of commendations were handed out at the meeting. If you would like to receive one and didn't (and you're an Army veteran— sorry other guys), we will see you are added to the list.

Post 1040—Honor Veterans with a Brick

While Frank was at our meeting, he reminded us that Post 1040 has a project to honor veterans with a brick in the Veterans Park at the Civic Center in Lynnwood. Cost of the bricks is \$25 each with three lines available for inscription. We have the form available if anyone would like to purchase them. Just as an aside, I have purchased them for my parents, both Army veterans of WWII and my brother and myself, both Vietnam veterans. Its for a good cause and its nice to help out another Post with their fundraising efforts.



Minutes from the September 11, 2009 Meeting

Twenty-one members assembled for the monthly post meeting. Commander Jim Traner introduced guests District One Commander Elmer Johnson, Frank Martinez of Post 1040, and potential new member Mario DeMitchell. The charter was draped in memory of Julius Groom, a member of the Clinton post, now merged with Post 8870.

Fred Apgar introduced guest speaker John E. Lee, the Director of the State Department of Veteran Affairs. John gave an update on the various programs available at the VA and emphasized the importance of getting contact information directly to him when approached by a veteran in need. Business cards were distributed to everyone with directions to take contact information from that veteran and then call John directly. He promises to get in touch with them. A certificate of appreciation from the post was presented to John, and a donation to The Michael G. Reagan Portrait Foundation "Fallen Heroes Project" will be made by the post in John's name.

Commander Jim Traner requested Acting Chaplain Rock Roth to lead the post in the opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and in the absence of Buck Weaver, Rock Roth led the post in the singing of "God Bless America." The Chaplain then said a prayer for the POW/MIA's while Officer of the Day John Casapiedra draped the vacant chair set aside for them.

Commander Jim Traner then duly opened Post 8870 for the transaction of business. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain and 1st Year Trustee absent.

There were no new applications for membership. New recruit Ken Pearl, a transferee from Post 1040, was mustered in, presented with a Post 8870 cap and a Cross of Malta pin and warmly welcomed by the post. The minutes of the August 14, 2009 meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. The Quartermaster's Report for the month of August 2009 had been reviewed and accepted by the trustees and was made available for review.

Surgeon Al Boyett presented the Hospital and Community Service Reports and the post was reminded to record all appropriate activities in full on those reports.

Smokey Point Chairman John Casapiedra reported that the post received over \$1,000 in donations over the coffee stop weekend fund raiser and thanked all for their participation in the project.

Fred Apgar, as the Chairman of the newly formed Relief Fund Committee, reported that guidelines have been prepared for the review of donation requests that are received from all sources for dispersal from the relief fund. The report is being submitted to the post and the board for their final approval. Fred is joined by Leroy Middleton and Jim Adams on this committee.

Poppy Chairman Bob Crawford reported that collections will be made at 5 markets on Friday, November 6th from 1100 – 1800 hours and Saturday, November 7th from 1100 – 1700 hours. Sign up sheets were made available for volunteers to sign up for shifts. Phil Sacks is serving as Assistant Poppy Chairman.

Frank Martinez, Ambassador for the U.S. Army "Freedom Team Salute" Program distributed lapel pins and certificates of appreciation signed by the Secretary of the Army to those Army veterans present at the meeting. Certificates will be mailed to those not in attendance. Frank also reminded the post that commemorative bricks are available for purchase for installation at the Lynnwood Veterans Park.

Commander Jim Traner invited Mike Reagan to speak about the overwhelming reception he received at the VFW National Convention in Phoenix. Mike was awarded the Presidential Gold Medal Award – the highest honor bestowed by the VFW - for his work with the "Fallen Heroes Project".

Fred Apgar won the raffle drawing and donated his half of the \$36 collected to the post General Fund.

At the direction of the Commander, Officer of the Day John Casapiedra retired the POW/MIA chair cover, Acting Chaplain Rock Roth led the post in the closing prayer, the flag was retired and the business session of Post 8870 was declared closed. The next monthly post meeting will be held on Friday, October 9th at 1230. There will be a board meeting at Jim Traner's office on Tuesday, October 6th at 0930, preceded by a Trustees' meeting at 0900.



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

It's been a busy summer and promises to be a busy Fall with Veterans Day just around the corner. Hopefully, some of you who are able will assist on the Poppy fund raiser. It's not hard work—just sitting around and talking to a lot of folks during the day. Pretty much what a barber or bartender would do without having to cut hair or mix drinks. You won't be alone since we work in teams of 2 so don't be to intimidated if you haven't done it before. In addition, we will be participating in a number of school assemblies and Rock Roth is gathering a list of volunteers so please sign up. There is no public speaking although a few teachers have asked for veterans to address their class. We will make sure we don't put you somewhere you would find yourself in an uncomfortable position. In fact, most of the kids are really honored having us in the classroom/assembly and really make you feel welcomed.

We had a really nice time going down to the Veterans Museum. When we got to the exhibit on Pearl Harbor, I mentioned that Irv was a Pearl Harbor veteran and the docent was immediately asking if him if had any memorabilia from the USS California. Irv is planning on getting some stuff to the museum so next time we do the tour, perhaps we will have a bit of Post 8870 down there. We will continue to have some type of social outing approximately every quarter. It's a good opportunity to meet your fellow members, particularly if you can't make the meetings. It is likely the next one will be with the American Legion for their holiday luncheon. We had an excellent turnout last year and hopefully we can add a few more names to the list this year. We will keep you posted as to the exact date and time.