

Calendar 2009-2010

December 29th	Joint Christmas Party with the American Legion at the Legion Hall 1:00 PM
January 9th, 2010	District I Conference—Post 8870 will host
January 15th & 16th	State VFW Midwinter Conference – Wenatchee
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

Rock Roth Presents Voice of Democracy Awards



Rock Roth and Fred Apgar did a great job in both the VOD and the Patriots Pen contest. I doubt if the other members know the amount of time that goes into this endeavor but these guys were contacting schools, calling teachers, grading essays, and making presentations. Hopefully, a few other folks will lend them a hand next year. When folks stand around and complain that the schools don't teach patriotism, history, etc., I question their expertise. They teach it, but the VFW program allows the kids to personalize it in an essay form. Again, thanks to Rock and Fred for a job well done. We will be having the winners at a future meeting to read their award winning essays.

Upcoming Speakers

December 11, 2009 Holiday musical entertainment

Chocolate for Troops in Afghanistan



What you are looking at is what my office looks like as I write this article—filled with candy. Phil Sacks was able to obtain all this candy for free from various merchants in and around Edmonds. The Post will pack the candy in post office mailing boxes (the white box on top of the stack) and get them overseas for some sweet-toothed troopers to munch on. In addition, Mrs. Ruth Brick from Brier Terrace Middle School and Mrs. Terry Traner (a close relation to your editor) from Serene Lake Elementary School will have students in their respective schools write Christmas letters to the troopers and we will enclose them in the boxes with the candy. If anyone wants to swing by my office and pack candy, let me know. We should have the letters some time during the first week in December and I'd like to get this stuff out before I start eating it. Good job Phil and a quick note to other members, Phil took this on and did a great job. If you see something that needs to be done, jump in and do it like Phil did.

Ellen Kotila Spoke on the VFW National Home for Children in Nov. Meeting.



U ofW Medal of Honor Dedication



A number of us attended the dedication of the new memorial honoring Medal of Honor recipients held at the U of W. The U of W has had 8 students awarded the medal. On stage were 12 Medal of Honor recipients, a bunch of politicians, various brass, and Jean Emerson from King TV as MC. As usual, it was hurry up and wait but everyone in the parade was used to that so we just stood around and chatted with the other veterans' groups that were marching. By the time we stepped off, we had another Post from Poulsbo marching with us and a few orphaned stragglers that accompanied us. All in all, it was a pretty nice day. My daughters (U of W alumni) and grandson (future U of W alumni) were able to make it and that made the day all the more special. And believe it or not, Buck Weaver found a guy that had graduated from flight school in the class ahead of Buck. Small world.

Salute to America Concert



I apologize for the picture quality but my official photographer, Fred Apgar was waving a flag at the time. As you can't see, Fred, John Casapiedra, Duane Pounds, and myself represented the Post in holding the various service flags as the band played a medley of armed service songs. Duane and I had to wrestle over the Army flag but I outranked him and I got it. Duane was relegated to the Coast Guard flag (sorry Coasties). But all kidding aside, this was a great concert that was held at the Performing Arts Center to a sold out crowd. Hopefully, next year, we can get a group of us together and attend this as a Post. It would be a great evening and I'm sure everyone would enjoy it. Fred Apgar, as usual, did a super job of getting everyone in the right place at the right time. Just as an aside, it was a privilege to run into Bruce Crandall, guest of honor for the evening and a Medal of Honor winner. I had a nice chat with him and later learned that Jim Adams had served with him.

Jim Adams and John Casapiedra on Poppy Patrol

The Post raised approximately \$6,500 for the Relief Fund during the Veterans Day/Armistice Day fund raiser. This was Bob Crawford's first stab at running this operation, and I believe this is the most we raised for a two day period at this time of year. Some guys pulled long shifts to make it happen including Jim Adams, Fred Apgar, Phil Sacks and yours truly. We also had a great deal of help from most everyone including the college vets, which was nice to see. I think everyone gets a heck of a lot more out of it than just raising money for worthy causes. We are continually tinkering with adding/dropping stores and Bob has plans on adding an additional store in May. We can cover the additional store, but only if we get every able body soul volunteering so be prepared to hear from Bob in a couple of months.



Helping Out Orting & Retsil

The Post has authorized \$1,600 to purchase \$20 gift cards at Fred Meyer and Wal-Mart. Several of the members including Fred Apgar and Phil Sacks will be delivering the cards to the homes. If anyone is interested in going along, let Fred or Phil know.

Christmas with American Legion

Mark your calendars, December 20th at 1:00PM we will have a Christmas party at the American Legion Hall at 7th and Dayton. This was a lot of fun last year and hopefully some of you guys will get up off the couch (the Seahawks aren't worth watching anyway) and join us. The food is excellent and the company is better.

College Veterans Club Dedicates Boots to Books Monument



It took a lot of work on the part of the vets up at Edmonds Community College, but the dedication to soldiers returning to student life as reflected in the boots sitting on books was unveiled on campus. Members of the Army were on hand and Troy Montgomery, Post member and president of the College Vets Club thanked the various organizations for their support, and particularly Post 8870 for their generosity. Mike Reagan, Post 8870 member and founder and artist of the Fallen Heroes Project, was the keynote speaker and made a great dedication speech. We congratulate the vets on campus for bring this to fruition and wish them the best of luck in their transition to student life.

Post Welcomes New Members



The Post welcomes Joe Hughes, Norman Nelson, and John Harrison to our Post. Make sure you say hello to them at the next meeting and we certainly look forward to getting to know each of them in the future.

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Looking for Some Warm, Dry Weather?

A final advertisement from member Irv Schmidt. He says: "Winter in Yuma, AZ in the Sun in the Foothills. Rent our Park model house on our lot, for 5 or 6 months. Completely furnished at \$900 a month. Just bring your suit case and your car. 425-778-7647." Wish I could rent it, but I will be slightly busy during tax season. However, it sounds like a heck of good deal.

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.

The Last Word

Attending the Medal of Honor Monument dedication at the U of W was really an honor. I graduated from there in 1972 after attending college from 1970-1972. As some of you may recall, veterans weren't held in high esteem on campus and demonstrations were a rather common occurrence. In fact, I used to walk a block out of my way so I didn't have to pass the Navy ROTC building which was bombed while I was there. So the dedication was extra special to me—a tribute to veterans on a campus much like the ECC Boots to Books memorial. There was only one thing wrong with the dedication. After we marched to the monument, the politicians were sitting and we had to stand. I have nothing against politicians (unlike a few folks), but I do have something against having guys like Buck Weaver and Dexter Miller standing while a bunch of folks giving speeches were sitting for what seemed to me to be several hours. Where was Lincoln with the Gettysburg Address? All I can say, is some things never change. But we met a lot of vets, had a good time, and hopefully, a few politicians got blisters on their behinds from all that sitting.