



**VFW Post 8870 and  
Ladies Auxiliary  
Edmonds, WA  
www.vfw8870.org**



April 2013  
Vol. 9 Issue 4

### 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.

April 9th	Staff Meeting—Traner's Office 09:00 AM
April 10th	Mike Reagan presentation—Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park
April 12th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM—Meeting 12:30 PM
May 18th	District Convention—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
June 6th—8th	Department Convention—Yakima
July 20th-24th	National Convention—Louisville, KY

### Save the Date

Our Post has been advised by the Edmonds Cemetery Board that Korean War veterans will be honored at this year's Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM. Of course, we invite all Post members to participate in the ceremony, but we hope that all Korean War veterans and the family members of deceased Korean War veterans will make a special effort to attend the ceremony. Every Korean War veteran and surviving family members of deceased Korean War veterans will be recognized. The Edmonds Cemetery Board would like to feature the use of a funeral flag from the family of a deceased Korean War veteran. If you know of anyone who might let us use the flag for the ceremony, please contact Fred Apgar (206-940-7502). Just a heads up, as well. We will need volunteers to place flags at the cemetery in the morning and take them down in the afternoon. If you can mark your calendars now for either or both shifts, your help would be appreciated.

### Post Sponsors Mike Reagan Presentation by Fred Apgar

VFW Post #8870 has organized a special program to recognize the wonderful work of Post member, Mike Reagan and his Fallen Heroes Foundation. The presentation will be held on Wednesday April 10, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park. We will be provided with an opportunity to hear Mike discuss his work. The Foundation, which Mike created almost ten years ago, provides hand drawn portraits of our nation's Fallen Heroes; those men and women, who while serving in the military, have sacrificed their lives in our nation's War Against Terrorism.

To date, Mike's Fallen Heroes Project has given away more than 3300 portraits, which has brought untold comfort to these Gold Star families. Michael completes two portraits every day, and what has now become his passion, finds him in his Edmonds studio seven days a week.

Over the years, our Post has provided financial assistance to the Fallen Heroes Foundation. Post members are encouraged to demonstrate their continued support of Mike and his great work by attending the April 10th presentation

### VFW Night at the Aquasox

Mark the 17th of August on your calendar so you save the date. It will be VFW night at the Everett Aquasox. A VFW honor guard will present the colors and one of our Comrades will throw out the first pitch. Following the game will be a fireworks show and for those of you who never attended a game, the fireworks are first rate. This is a great time to bring the spouse, the kids, and the grandkids. We will need a count of members by June in order to reserve sufficient tickets. We already have more than 30 attending so it should be fun. We will start passing out signup sheets at the April meeting. Tickets are \$10 and we will seat down the first base line. We guarantee 75 degrees and no wind that night.

## New Members

### Ann Marie Jackson



Ann Marie entered active duty with the US Army in 2004 and is currently stationed at JBLM. Her hometown is Las Vegas, NV. She served in Iraq in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2012. Other posts include Korea and Germany overseas and Ft Campbell, KY. She has worked in military police, medic and human resources positions. Awards include Army Achievement Medal (4) and Good Conduct Medal. She has a BA in Criminal Justice. Ann Marie lives in Tacoma and has 3 children with 1 granddaughter on the way.

### Mark Schildknecht



Mark grew up in the Sequim area and resides there now. Mark enlisted in the US Marines in 1963 and served until 1967. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam 1966-67. He was in avionics and aircrew (CH-46 helicopter). Units included 1st MAW, HMM164 and MAGII. Awards include the Combat Air Crew Insignia, Good Conduct Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Dominican Republic). Mark is Commandant of the Mount Olympus Detachment #897 of the Marine Corps League in Port Angeles. He is retired from trucking. Mark and Diana have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

## Membership

The Post is at 95% of its goal for membership. We need 8 additional members to reach our 100% mark. If you are one of the unpaid, please help us reach our goal. We now take credit cards so if you would like to pay by plastic, send an email to our Quartermaster at [quartermaster@vfw8870.com](mailto:quartermaster@vfw8870.com) and he can take care of you. Of course, we still take checks and cash. If you can't pay, let us know and we will make arrangements to see that your membership continues. The ball is in your court.

## Why VFW?

We can't obtain 100% membership yet VFW speaks loudly for every veteran in this country whether they are a member or not. By now, I assume that everyone is familiar with sequestration and the impact it is having on both our armed forces and our veterans. Our Commander in Chief and our Washington DC staff is working hard to fight to retain the benefits we earned. I repeat, the benefits we earned. Individually, the veteran is helpless. As a group, we wield political power and Congress only understands and listens to those that can hurt them or help them as the case may be. So if you really don't give a rip about joining an organization for yourself, consider joining for the vet who is on a waiting list for a couple of years at the VA. It's a small contribution of \$25.

## Chaplain's Column—Rock Roth

Supreme Court Justice Antonio Scalia spoke at the inauguration of the Thomas More Society in the Diocese of Green Bay in October 2010. The Thomas More Society consists of judges, attorneys, and public officials who turn to Saint Thomas More as a mentor and model in their work as public servants, a model of integrity and courage. Judge Scalia mentioned in his address that our culture looks upon believers as “unsophisticated cretins,” foolish people who believe in Jesus Christ and the story of His Resurrection. It appears to me that history has not changed.

I am very concerned about our society and the direction it has selected, one that would restrict – eliminate – even the mention of God in the community, a Godless America. Who do we blame for this? How did we get into this position? How do we change our culture to one where God is again an integral part?

I do not have an answer; I wish I did! I do know, however, that we should blame ourselves for the position we are in, as unpopular as that may be. We seldom exhibit the courage to serve as God's Ambassador to the world, to stand up for our beliefs. We are too interested in the other person's feelings, being concerned that we might offend 'someone' if we state that we are Christians (or Jews). During this Easter Season, as we remember the life, death, and most importantly the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus the Christ – for Christians, and Passover for the Jewish Community - I pray that God will give each of us the courage to worry less about being 'politically correct' and more about being morally right, and as Judge Scalia mentioned, “a model of integrity and courage.” That we might reflect God's Glory to a needy world!

### March 30 is Vietnam Veterans' Day

While this is a bit after the fact, the Washington Legislature has deemed the 30th as Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Day. About the only thing of significance is the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown by all public entities. Since the 30th is on a Saturday and a lot of the agencies were closed i.e. the schools, I'm not sure the average citizen even noticed. My daughters came over to my house for Easter and they are the most pro-veteran women in America and only one had seen a brief article in the newspaper that mentioned it. However, for those of us who came back on a “Freedom Bird”, it is a day for us to remember our trip home and remember those who didn't come back with us. Now that we have some advanced knowledge of the date, perhaps we can do a bit more in the coming year in welcoming home our brothers and sisters in a more dignified manner.

### Elections at the April Meeting

Election of Post officers will be held at the Post meeting on April 12th meeting. Nominations were made at the March meeting and additional nominations can be made at the April meeting prior to election. Remember, lunch is at 11:45 and the meeting starts promptly at 12:30 at the Senior Center in Edmonds.

### The District Commander's Corner— Jim Traner

Our Annual Memorial Service was held on Saturday, March 30th remembering the Comrades and Sisters we lost this last year. Unfortunately, the bell was rung far too many times during the service as each name was read. We had a packed house at the meeting with the Department Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Quartermaster, and Chaplin attending. In addition, we had candidates for the Surgeon and Quartermaster position attend. I hate to see contested elections particularly when all the candidates are superbly qualified individuals. It's good for VFW but certainly hard to cast a vote. I had a sample of Department's shirt for next year and had a number of folks approach me after the meeting about order forms. I'll bring it to our meeting along with some order forms. I want to thank Post 2100 for hosting the luncheon. After the 5th or 6th person made a raving comment about the meal, it was apparent that we would be seeing more visitors from Department in the future. I also want to thank Post 1040 for their assistance this year in providing the space for the District meetings and helping in the setup and takedown. Likewise, their Honor Guard did an excellent job at the Memorial Service. Finally, I would like to thank Post 8870 for their tremendous support this year and their help at the meetings.

## **The Last Word—Commander's Column by Fred Apgar**

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam Peace Accords. The Accords were signed on 27 January 1973, but it would take two more agonizingly long years before the last Americans were evacuated from Saigon as the North Vietnamese were rolling through the streets of Saigon and breaking through the gates of the American embassy. There were, of course, many legacies of the Vietnam War, but the definitive history of the Vietnam War is yet to be written.

More than forty years later, our view of the war is only slightly clearer. We will probably never be able to identify our nation's self-interest in that conflict, nor will we ever be able to attach meaning to the overwhelming loss of blood and treasure. Unfortunately, those college professors, whose left-wing ideology crafted the anti-war sentiment at home, are using the same rhetoric to write the historical perspective of the Vietnam War. Similarly, politicians and decision-makers, whose ineptitude prolonged hostilities, project themselves as objective observers.

My perspective is that the men and women in the enlisted ranks and the junior officers did everything that was asked of them. We followed the chain of command, adhered to military discipline inasmuch as we followed orders, and committed ourselves to our assigned missions. We trusted our military leaders and civilian decision-makers to provide us with a mission that was in our nation's best interest; which was their moral obligation to do so. In return for that, we would do our jobs and risk our lives to complete the mission.

The real failures were the Colonels and Generals. They permitted unrealistic competition between the military branches and placed daily statistics ahead of meaningful tactical and strategic operations and missions. By failing to challenge the military's civilian leadership and our country's political leaders, the Colonels and Generals let us down. It was their responsibility to protect us by demanding reasonable rules to prosecute the war and tasking assignments that adhered to logical and rational military doctrine. For example, strike flights were consistently fragged for the same time over target (TOT) and ingress and egress routes were rarely changed. At other times, missions were fragged for meaningless and at time, dubious, targets. A foreign policy that sought to minimize the risk of antagonizing Russian and Chinese feelings gave us Rules of Engagement that clearly resulted in the unnecessary loss of American lives.

Since we were never truly committed to victory, we should have never risked defeat. That was the immorality of the Vietnam War.

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