

## Upcoming Events Calendar

Please take time to review the calendar and if there are additions that are necessary, please contact the editor at [commander@vfwdistrict1.org](mailto:commander@vfwdistrict1.org)

June 10th	Staff Meeting—Traner’s New Office 0900
June 13th	Post Meeting— Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch at 1130- Meeting at 1230- Installation of Officers
June 24th	Memorial Service for Snohomish Veterans— Edmonds Memorial Cemetery— 10:45 AM

## Post Participates in ECC Memorial Day Ceremonies



Edmonds Community College had its first Memorial Day Ceremony and Post 8870 played a major roll in it. Mike Reagan gave a profound and moving speech while Buck Weaver lead the gathering in God Bless America which was almost up to par with Kate Smith’s rendition. We had a good representation and it was nice to see the student veterans show the rest of the college that we will never forget our fallen comrades.

## Poppy Drive a Success

Our Memorial Day Buddy Poppy drive grossed \$11,062. That is down a bit from last year but still enough to be considered a very successful weekend of collections. Another big thanks to Bob Crawford who ramrodded the event and to Liz Mather who counted the funds. In addition, I want to thank everyone who participated. For those who didn’t, consider it in the future. A bunch of us pulled multiple shifts and it would be nice to share the efforts with a few more folks.

## Edmonds Dedicates “Veterans Plaza”



Commander Fred Apgar presented the Post at the dedication ceremony with remarks on how important to remember those who have given their lives for America. Ron Clyborne organized the dedication and was able to pull a rabbit out of the hat, so to speak, in putting together a somber but dignified dedication on relatively short notice. Mike Reagan escorted Myra Rintamaki, a Gold Star mother, in placing a wreath at the monument. Post 8870 and American Legion Post 66 also placed a wreath at the monument. I would estimate there were approximately 80-100 attendees. This plaza has been a goal of Post 8870 since I was Post Commander 6 or 7 years ago, and I witnessed the dedication with pride on how our efforts have come to fruition.

## Fred and Nancy Diedrich Honored at Memorial Day Ceremony

Memorial Day at the cemetery was terrific. First, I think that is the first Memorial Day regretting I had forgotten my sunblock. After rain all day on Sunday, we were prepared for the worst and instead were greeted with sunny skies and downright hot weather. Second, our own Fred and Nancy Diedrich were honored guests at the ceremony. Eli Longacre, a local Boy Scout, read Fred's story in the first person. He did a tremendous job and the crowd loved it. Fred, of course, was a paratrooper with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment who jumped into Normandy on June 6th. Of the 2,056 men who jumped, only 995 returned to England with the rest being dead,



wounded or captured. Fred met Nancy on his return to England. Courting was done via mail when Fred return to combat and he proposed via a letter. Nancy said yes and, like they say, the rest is history. Of course, Nancy had to write to Fred's commanding general (as an old E-5 I can only gulp on that one), and wrangled a couple of days for Fred before he was shipped to the states in preparation for the invasion of Japan. The general had Fred hitch a ride on his personal airplane and the wedding was a success since it's beginning to look like the marriage will work out. It was a real honor for Fred and Nancy. Post 8870 and American Legion Post 66 do a great job on the ceremony and I only hear compliments from those who attend.



## Post Charter Draped to Honor Richard Kane

At the outset of the May meeting, the Post charter was draped to honor the memory of Richard "Rick" Kane. Rick was a member of the Army and served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. During his one year tour of duty in Vietnam, Rick was assigned to the 321<sup>st</sup> Artillery Regiment and served at numerous fire bases. He served in-country from November 1967 until December 1968. He died last August from Agent Orange related health issues. Lucy Kane, Rick's widow, attended our meeting. Following the draping of the Charter, Lucy proudly accepted the 30 year longevity pin and patch that her late husband had earned.

## Memorial Ceremony for Erv Schmidt

A memorial service for Erv Schmidt will be held on Saturday, June 7th at 1:00PM at the First Baptist Church, 22800 56th Avenue, Mountlake Terrace. As I think everyone knows, Erv was a longtime member of our Post and a Pearl Harbor Survivor. Katie, his daughter, let me know that he would have loved to have as many as his “shipmates” as possible attending his service.

## Heads Up for July 4th Parade & BBQ

As usual, we will be leading the July 4th Parade through Edmonds. However, our Annual BBQ will be held on July 5th at the Edmonds City Park. The parking and logistics of trying to do a BBQ on the same day as the parade were overwhelming. Consider yourself forewarned—the Parade is on the Fourth (show up at 10:30) and the Picnic is on the 5th at noon. Details to follow.

## Newly Elected Officers Installed

At its May meeting our newly elected officers were installed by District 1 Commander, Jim Traner, who is also one of Past Commanders. The newly elected officers will assume their year-long terms in June. Jim Blossey was installed as Commander, and he is replacing Fred Apgar who has served as Post Commander for the past two years. Under Commander Apgar’s leadership, the Post has experienced significant growth in membership, enhanced fund raising efforts to increase support to veterans in need, expanded the Post’s visibility in community programs, established the Freedom Scholarship for four deserving graduating seniors, and participated in Edmond’s planning of the newly created Veterans Plaza. The newly installed officers for VFW Post # 8870 are:

Commander	Jim Blossey
Senior Vice Commander	Chris Edwards
Junior Vice Commander	Terry Crabtree
Quartermaster	Dennis Peterson
Surgeon	Al Boyett
Chaplain	Fred Apgar
Judge Advocate	Don Stapleton
Third Year Trustee	Daniel White

## Members Recognized for VFW Service

Prior to the installation ceremony at our May meeting, the Post conducted its annual recognition of members for their long years of membership in VFW. Robert Crosby has been a member of VFW for 50 years, and Joe Kuchiniski joined VFW 35 years ago. Those whose membership has spanned 30 years are Wilson Burrill, William Garber, Billy Johnson, Jack Mowat, and Thomas Schulstad, and Rick Kane (posthumously). Jim Collins received a pin for his 15 years of service, and Les Abel and Fred Diedrich each received 10 year pins.

## VFW Stuff

Our room at the Senior Center doesn’t allow it due to space constraints, but for those of you who attend District meetings or those of other Posts, know that there is a specific seating of officers. The Commander, Adjutant, and Quartermaster are at the head table while the rest of the officers are seated between the head table and Post members. The Senior Vice is at a Station directly in front of the Commander, the Junior Vice is at Commander’s left with the Officer of the Day adjacent to the Jr. Vice. The Chaplain is to the left of the Commander. Now why that order came about, I have no idea. However, the next time you visit Post 9417 in Gold Bar, 7511 in Monroe, or 2100 in Everett, you’ll know why everyone is located where they are.



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**Last Word**

**By**

**Fred M. Apgar, Commander**

At this month's meeting, Jim Blossey will assume the role of Commander of VFW Post # 8870, and my two-year run as your Post Commander will come to an end. I know all of you join me in wishing Jim good luck, pledging him our full support, and working alongside of him to fulfill our Post's mission. Jim has prepared himself for this leadership position by directly involving himself in many Post initiatives and making many fine contributions. Thanks to his vision, interpersonal skills, and hard work, Post # 8870 will continue to move forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to the members of VFW Post # 8870 for the wonderful opportunity to have served as your Commander. Thank you for the confidence you placed in me. It was both a privilege and honor to have served in that capacity. Regardless of the role I was asked to assume, it had always been a goal of mine to serve the heroes of my childhood; WW II and Korean War veterans. I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing to serve my comrades.

Finally, I would like to recognize the many significant contributions made by members of our leadership team. I was blessed to have had so many dedicated comrades serving in elected and appointed positions, and your loyal support has been greatly appreciated. Thank you for a job well done.