



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW Post 8870
and Auxiliary
Edmonds, WA
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April 2016
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April Staff Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 09:00
April Post Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, Dinner at 17:15, Meeting Starts at 18:00
All Meetings at the Edmonds American Legion Hall on 6th Ave.



Congratulations to Nancy Thompson! VFW Department of Washington Elementary Teacher of the Year

Nancy Thompson, Post 8870's Elementary Teacher of the year, who teaches music at Serene Lake Elementary School in Mukilteo, has been named Teacher of the Year in that category for the State of Washington. Her nomination will now be forwarded to National. She will be honored at the June convention in Pasco.



Nancy Thompson



Post 8870 Teachers of the year

Three local teachers were recognized by the Post for their efforts to promote American history, traditions and institutions through teaching of citizenship education topics. The teacher recognition program is sponsored by the National VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Awards Program.

Nancy Thompson, a music teacher at Serene Lake Elementary School is Elementary Teacher of the Year; the Middle School Teacher of the Year is Lori Kutrich of Terrace Park School and High School Teacher of the year is Chris Brown, of Scriber Lake High School.



Commander Jim Blossey presenting certificates of recognition to our three teachers of the year.



Post 8870 and Washington State Elementary Teacher of the Year Nancy Thompson joins Post member Buck Weaver in singing God Bless American to open our March Post meeting.

**Edmonds Veterans Plaza funding
tops \$ 400,000!**

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How to be a part of our Edmonds Veterans Plaza Plaza Project Approaching Fundraising Goal

For the past 241 years men and women have served our nation in uniform; in peace and in conflict, assuring that our freedom, declared in 1776, would continue.



Our City of Edmonds has not had a place to so honor & remember those who have served. Thanks to VFW Post 8870, American Legion Post 66, The City of Edmonds and a group of dedicated individuals, Edmonds will finally have such a place of honor, to be prominently located at 5th and Bell, right in front of the City Council Chambers Building.

The total budget for the new plaza is \$420,000. To date the organizing committee has raised \$ 400,000 and there is \$20,000 yet to raise. The Hazel Miller

Foundation, prominent among our major supporters, was an early donor committing \$180,000 toward this project during the fall of 2015. We are very grateful for this support.

The time has come for the fundraising effort to look to the public. All Edmonds citizens are invited to contribute toward the campaign to raise the last \$ 20,000.

Please consider a contribution of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more so that the project can be completed. You can send your contribution to Edmonds Veterans Plaza, c/o Edmonds VFW Post 8870, PO Box 701, Edmonds, WA 98020 (make checks payable to Edmonds Veterans Plaza); or go online to <http://edmondsveteransplaza.com>.

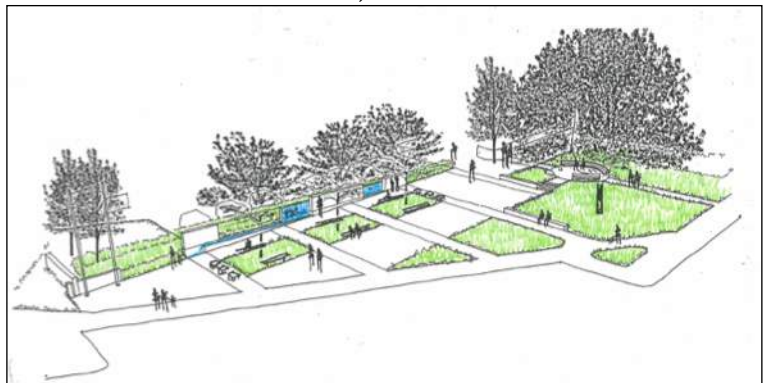
You may wish to honor a particular friend, relative or comrade in arms. We have the following opportunities to do so:

- **Pavers to honor a Veteran - \$500 minimum donation**
- **Bench Plaques to honor a Veteran - \$1,500 minimum donation**
- **Seating Cubes to honor a Veteran - \$2,500 per side**

(Illustrations of these features are available on the web site referred to above.)

Fundraising is to be completed by the end of May with construction beginning in June and the new Plaza to be dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11th, 2016.

The financial support of all of our citizens and particularly all veterans is important so please send your contribution now.



New colors to fly over Edmonds School District stadium Courtesy of VFW Post 8870



School officials and student athletes join the VFW contingent to accept the gift of the new athletic field flag. Back row, from left: Geoff Bennett, EWHS Assistant Principal; Angie McGuire, EWHS Athletic Director; Jim Blossey, VFW Post 8870 Commander; Fred Apgar, VFW; Rich Petek, Athletic Field Manager; Grant Whitcutt, student; Jacob Henriksen, student; Binian Tesfaghaber, student; Grady Okeson, student; Yonas Tesfatsion, student; Terrance Crabtree, VFW; Ian Vincent, student. Kneeling from left: Students Benjamin Yang, Alexia Ballard, Sterling Mahan and Anindo Kahn.

After more than 20 years of service, the Edmonds School District Athletic Department's American flag had definitely seen better days. Frayed and faded, it was a shadow of its former self and ready to be retired.

When officials from Edmonds VFW Post 8870 heard about this, they immediately contacted the school and offered to donate a brand new flag to fly over athletic and other events at Edmonds District stadium.

In a short ceremony on a recent Wednesday afternoon, VFW officials met with a group of teachers, students and district staff to formally present the new flag.

"It's very meaningful for us to be able to do this," said Jim Blossey, VFW Post Commander. "Honoring the flag and those who have died for it is a big part of what we stand for, and it's a privilege to help promote this within our community."






Athletic Field Mgr Petek demonstrates the worn condition of the old flag

The VFW is arranging to have the old flag officially retired in the traditional manner, "probably by burning it in a wood fire" according to Blossey. *Story and photos by Larry Vogel, courtesy My Edmonds News.com*

Raffle to Help Fund Edmonds Veterans Plaza

Post 8870 will conduct a raffle beginning in April as part of our contribution to the funding of the Edmonds Veterans Plaza. The raffle is expected to raise a total of \$5,000 for the cause and will be conducted in part as an addition to our "Buddy Poppy" distribution efforts, as well as some special ticket selling events and the efforts of individual members and VFW supporters. Images of the raffle ticket and a promotional flyer are below.

Tickets and flyers will be available for distribution at the April Post Meeting.

 NO: _____ Name: _____ Tel: _____ _____ Help us build a lasting tribute to Veterans; past, present & future	 VFW Post 8870 Donation: \$5.00 No. _____	Edmonds Veterans Plaza Raffle Win! Signed & Framed Original Seahawks Poster! By Famed Edmonds Artist Michael Reagan USMC Vietnam Combat Veteran Proceeds benefit Edmonds Veterans Plaza Drawing at Edmonds American Legion Hall July 4, 2016	
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Raffle drawing to be held at the Independence Day picnic, July 4, 2016

The winners need not be present to claim their prize.



Edmonds Veterans Plaza Raffle!

Help build a lasting tribute to Veterans; past, present & future

See any VFW Post 8870 member for your chance to win these one-of-a-kind images

First Prize:

Signed & Framed Original Seahawks Poster!

Second Prize:

A Smaller unframed original Seahawks Poster

Both pieces by Famed Edmonds Artist

Michael Reagan

USMC Vietnam Combat Veteran, founder Fallen Heroes Project

Drawing at VFW/American Legion Picnic, July 4, 2016
Need not be present to win;

**Donation
\$ 5.00
per ticket**

First Prize



Second Prize



artist's rendition of north wall area of the proposed plaza, honoring each of the five branches of service





Mark your calendar for two special Memorial Day events coming up in May.

Edmonds Community College will have a program at 10:30 AM on Wednesday May 25, at the college's Black Box Theater. This year they will be remembering WWII veterans and urge all our WWII veterans to attend and be honored. Other members of our post will also be playing a role in the various ceremonies. Commander Blossey has agreed to be the master of ceremonies.

The Edmonds Memorial Cemetery will be having their 34th annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Memorial Day itself, Monday, May 30, at 11:00 AM. This year—as in years past—Post 8870 will be presenting the colors, raising the flag, narrating the White Table Ceremony and other prominent duties. Our Voice of Democracy winner will read her winning essay. All post members are asked to attend.

We will have further details about both events in future newsletters, but for now, please mark your calendars and set the time aside to attend them both.

Community Songwriting Workshop



April 7 & 8, 2016 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Location: Edmonds Senior Center

\$15/person or \$25/couple for 2-day admission

\$2/day for seniors with limited disposable incomes

Individuals living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, their families and care partners are invited to join Songwriting Works' professional songwriters in a 2-day workshop at Edmonds Senior Center.