



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW Post 8870
and Auxiliary
Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org
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Events on the Horizon:

Staff Meetings: 9:00 AM, First Tues., American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds
Post Meetings: Second Tues., American Legion Hall; Dinner at 5:00 PM (\$5) Meeting at 6:00 PM
December Post meeting takes place on Tuesday, December 13
Christmas Party Saturday December 10
District 1 Meeting: Sat. Dec. 3, at Post 2100 in Everett.
Wellness Wednesday: No Wellness Wed session until January 2017.

Veterans Day Poppy Distribution Yields Record Revenues!

The weekend of November 4-6 proved very successful for our semi-annual “Buddy Poppy” fund raiser. Members of Post 8870 staffed four locations in Edmonds, Mukilteo and Mill Creek and raised over \$ 15,000 for our Veterans Relief fund, a new record by around \$ 2,000!

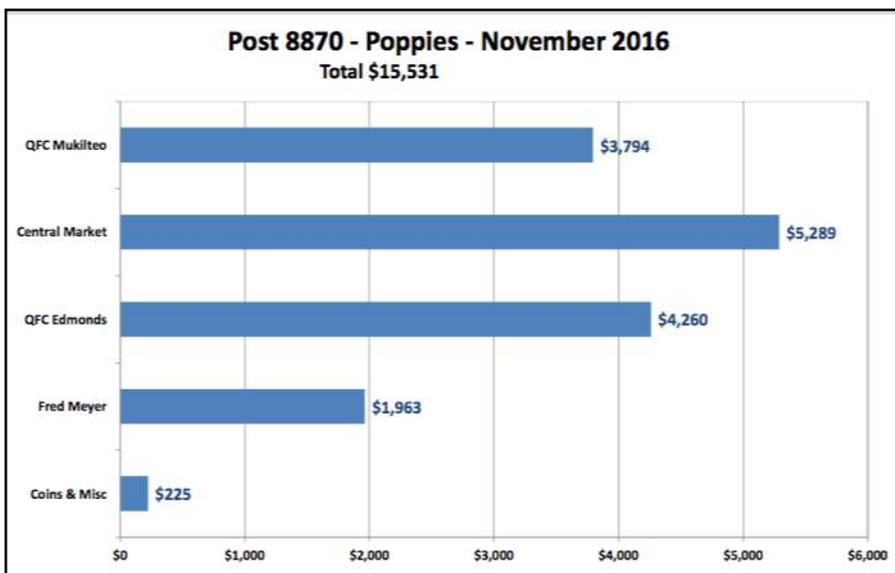
As the bar graph below reflects, Central Market in Mukilteo pulled away this time around, handily exceeding the results from both QFC locations, with Fred Meyer in Lynnwood a distant fourth.

We have been experimenting with a Saturday/Sunday session at Central Market and it seems to be paying dividends. Perhaps we will want to consider moving some of our other locations into the weekend market?

For the first time we were able to staff both doors at the Edmonds QFC which resulted in an increase in revenues there. Post 8870 is grateful to all who participated and, of course to our generous citizens of South Snohomish County. Chaplain Fred Apgar and his Relief Committee will no doubt be able to find good uses for those funds!



Jim Adams seems to have had no difficulty drawing a crowd of youngsters and attractive ladies at the Central Market location in Mill Creek.



EdCC Veterans Day Event Honors Korean War Vets

Six members of Post 8870 were among 23 Korean War veterans honored by Edmonds Community College at their annual Veterans Day celebration November 2. The event filled the college's Black Box Theater to standing room only.



Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal

The highlight of the event was the awarding of the Korean Ambassador for Peace medal to the Korean Veterans present. The medals were presented by the Korean consul general in Seattle, Moon Duk-ho. The proclamation accompanying it reads: "The Republic of Korea thanks these veterans for the service [they] performed in restoring and preserving our freedom and democracy."

Post 8870 member Jim Adams, Tom Hallums, Gil Loomis, Paul Poppe, Phil Sacks and Dan White were so honored.

The director of the college's Veterans Resource Center, Navy retiree Chris Szarek, said, "Our campus chose to honor Korean War veterans as a way of ensuring that the brave men and women who served there know that their service is appreciated and to remind us of an often forgotten conflict."



Other speakers at the event included state representative Cindy Ryu, who as Shoreline mayor was the first Korean American woman to be mayor of a U.S. city. Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith and Edmonds CC President Dr. Jean Hernandez also spoke. Our immediate past commander, Jim Blosssey—also a Korean War veteran—was emcee for the program.



Korean War Vets gathered for a group photo following the ceremony. Legion and VFW members were joined by unaffiliated veterans



Attention Korean War Veterans:
Not included at the EdCC Ceremony?
The ROK would like to correct that for eligible veterans

At the recent Veteran's Day ceremony at Edmonds Community College, many Korean War veterans were honored by the Government of South Korea and were presented with medals for their service. Unfortunately, not all Korean War veterans received the medals. Thanks to Post member Jim Adams, Korean officials would like to correct that oversight and honor all those men and women who defended their nation. To be eligible for this recognition, you must prove you served in the combat theater between 25 June 1950 and 27 July 1953. A copy of your DD 214 should suffice, assuming it reflects your service in Korea. Eligible veterans should mail a copy of your DD 214 or other documentation that indicates you served in-country between the listed dates to Fred Apgar at 13816 North Pointe Circle, Mill Creek, WA 98012. A representative from the Korean Government will make a special presentation to eligible Post members at a future meeting.

Veterans Day at our Schools

Twenty-Six members of Post 8870 participated in Veterans Day school visits this year at all grade levels. **Dick Simmons** provided the following description of his visit to Sherwood Elementary School, which seems typical of the experience we all had:



Post 8870 member Dan White visited classrooms at Odyssey ES

“Had a great visit on Thursday the 10th at Sherwood Elementary School located in the Woodway area. An all-school assembly began at 10:50. The students filed in and we began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the acknowledgment of the four Veterans in attendance, including me, a vet from Legion Post 244 someplace back east, and two other vets, one Vietnam and another Korean era.

The assembly included a white table ceremony that was conducted by a teacher and students using a description of the ceremony and its significance that has been described in a children’s book.

After the assembly one of the teachers asked me if I could spend some time visiting with her fifth graders which I did, visiting with two fifth grade classes at the same time. The kids pelted me with

questions for an hour or so which I enjoyed answering as best I could until recess and continued to answer questions outside the classroom during recess.

The kids were extremely polite and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience just as I have for the past three years I’ve been attending their Veterans assembly.”

“Thanks for your help in allowing us to truly show kids what it means to serve our country and what Veterans day recognizes.”

*Ryan Oxner
Odyssey Elementary
Dean of Students*

Well Done!

To the following members who participated in Veterans Day School Visits

EdCC	Blossey, Szarek
Alderwood MS	Apgar
Discovery ES	Denton
Hazelwood ES	Doyle
Meadowdale ES	Gaul
Seaview ES	Kurfess
Voyager MS	Ward
Meadowdale MS	Crabtree, Koenig, Santopolo
Edmonds-Woodway HS	Gaul, Mazerolle
Holy Rosary ES	Collins
Picnic Point ES	Traner
Arlington ES	McCann
Odyssey ES	White
Sherwood ES	Simmons
Olympic View MS	Traner
Scriber Lake HS	Blossey, Shelton, Whedon, Russo
Brier Terrace MS	Clyborne, Adams
Fairmount ES	Apgar
Martha Lake ES	Denton
Olivia Park ES	Crabtree, Williams
Mountlake Terrace ES	Kurfess
Edmonds Elementary	Sacks, Cassutt
College Place ES	Hallums
Brier ES	Apgar
Spruce ES	Edwards



8870 member Jon Koenig speaking at Meadowdale MS with Post Commander Terry Crabtree.



The Story of One Vietnam Veteran

Many of our Post 8870 members are veterans of the Vietnam War and have compelling stories to tell of their time in country.

This month, thanks to a chance meeting with Jim McCann, Jim Murdock and Phil Sacks at the Lynnwood Fred Meyer while distributing poppies, we bring you the story of another sort of Vietnam veteran, one who was fighting for his own country's freedom alongside his American comrades. This is the story of Vincent Pham, an American citizen born in Vietnam.

Born Pham Van Ban on February 1, 1949, in Hai Hung, Vietnam, this man's life has taken him from studies in law as a young man through a military career amidst a war and again into the realm of advanced studies.

After graduating from the University of Vietnam Law School in 1970, he started a military career, first serving as an interpreter for US troops based in Long Binh. Later that year he began Air Force Cadet training and was sent to the United States for flight training. Beginning in July 1974, he served as a fighter pilot in the 4th Air Force Div., Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF).

Downed in combat and captured, First Lieutenant Ban was sent to prison in Kien Giang on May 2, 1975. He suffered many hardships during seven years in prison camps in Vietnam. On May 2, 1982, exactly seven years after the day of his capture, he escaped from Vietnam. He and his family fled by boat to a refugee camp in Thailand. During their escape from Vietnam, his twelve year old son was caught and imprisoned.

Between 1982 and 1984, he worked with the United Nations' Save The Children Foundation in Indonesia. On August 10, 1984, Pham Van Ban and his family came to the United States and settled in Everett, Washington. Pham changed his name to Vincent Pham when he became a United States citizen in 1993.

In the summer 1994, Vincent Pham entered Everett Community College and received an Associate of Sciences Degree in Political Science. He has since continued his education at WWU and UW in political science.

Vincent volunteers with the Red Cross. His volunteer efforts are centered on disaster preparedness for the Vietnamese community in Snohomish County. He has translated into Vietnamese and presented Red Cross materials to more than 100 fellow citizens.

From the November Post Meeting



At our regular monthly meeting on November 15, in addition to routine Post business, Commander Terry Crabree presented Michael Reagan's portrait of Wesley Fisk to his daughter at left and at right Gill Loomis displays the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal he received, along with the citation document, at the November 2 event at Edmonds Community College





Our December Post Meeting Speaker: Col. (USA Ret.) William S. Reeder

Col Reeder is a legendary aviator who has made contributions to survival, evasion, resistance, escape (SERE) training and the attack helicopter community. His 30-year career included two combat tours in Vietnam flying armed OV-1 Mohawk reconnaissance airplanes and AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters.

Colonel Reeder has in excess of 3,000 flight hours, over 1,000 in combat, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and three Purple Hearts. He was named AAAA

Army Aviator of the Year in 1977.

His book, *Through the Valley* is the captivating memoir of his experience as the last U.S. Army soldier taken prisoner during the Vietnam War. Signed copies of the book will be available.



Christmas Party

The Post's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 10 at 12:00 Noon, and lunch will be served at 1:00 PM. The annual pot-luck event will be held at the American Legion Hall in Edmonds. The American Legion and VFW Posts will supply turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, wine, beer, soft drinks, and coffee/tea. Families attending are asked to bring a dish that will be shared with others. We need side dishes, salads, rolls/bread, and desserts. Additionally, the "cost of admission" will be non-perishable food item(s) and/or unwrapped toys.

RSVP Please: Members who plan on attending the party are asked to sign up on the Post web site <http://vfw8870.org/volunteers-needed/>, (under Holiday Party) indicating the number of guests and the class of food item you will bring. Family members and friends are invited to attend the party. We all look forward to the fellowship.