



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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

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April 2017

### 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  
Veterans Plaza Gardern Installation; volunteers will be needed, date TBA  
Poppy Distribution: May 19-21  
Memorial Day Observances: May 29, including dedication of the Edmonds Veterans Plaza  
State Dept. Convention, June 22-24, at the Red Lion in Olympia

**April Post meeting takes place on Tuesday, April 11**

### Teachers of the Year Recognized



*L to R Susan Venable, Jamie Mulvihill, Susan Olmos, Cdr Crabtree*

At the monthly post meeting on March 14, Post 8870 presented selections for the Elementary and Middle School “National Citizenship in Education Award”. These awards recognize teachers for their dedication to educating students on matters of citizenship. The recipients are recognized with certificates and a modest monetary stipend at the local Post level and are entered in the District 1, Department of Washington competition, with district winners becoming eligible for Department (State) and National awards. (While the awards will not be made until the District Convention later this spring, we already know that both of our recipients will receive the District 1 award in their category.)

This years recipients, Susan Olmos and Jamie Mulvihill, both of Holy Rosary School in Edmonds, came to the attention of the Post awards committee as a result of an excellent


Veterans Day program they jointly prepared and presented with enthusiastic student participation for Veterans Day 2016. Ms. Olmos teaches music to all grades and is also Holy Rosary Parish Music Director. She is the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, now retired from the USAF. Ms Mulvihill teaches math in grades 6-8 in addition to planning and organizing the school’s annual Veterans Day Assembly.

### National Vietnam Veterans Day



The House of Representatives recently passed a bill to amend the flag code to include **National Vietnam War Veterans Day** on the list of days that Americans should fly the U.S. flag. March 29 of each year is the designated day. The bill, which cleared the Senate in February, now goes to the President’s desk for signature.

## Edmonds Veterans Plaza Shaping Up



**EDMONDS VETERANS PLAZA**  
*Dedication*  
**Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2017**  
**2:00 PM**  
**5th Avenue N and Bell Street**  
The public is encouraged to attend

Work is moving fast on the Edmonds Veterans Plaza near the Public Safety Complex at Fifth Avenue North and Bell Street in Edmonds. The two photos below, taken a few days prior to publication show the plaza under construction.

At left, the engraved pavers are shown, waiting at the Civic Center Playfield for installation. Look closely and you will see the names Weaver and Clyborne on the exposed pavers.

Construction is expected to be complete in time for the dedication, now scheduled to take place on Memorial Day, May 29.

We urge all of our members, their families and all other Edmonds Veterans to attend.



### Plaza Garden Installation Volunteers Needed

Now, on to the garden! Ron Clyborne met with and has arranged to have an amazing group, “Growing Veterans”, join us in our effort to plant a beautiful memorial garden, and the City is helping us with plants from their gardens. We need volunteers to help with the installation. Email Ron Clyborne; [ronclyborne@comcast.net](mailto:ronclyborne@comcast.net) to let us know you wish to participate. You will receive an email advising of dates(s) and time for the project.





## Memorial Day Observances on the Horizon

### Poppy Distribution

Memorial Day poppy distribution will occur on the weekend of May 19-21 at the usual locations. Poppy coordinator Bob Crawford will be taking sign ups for Friday and Saturday shifts, plus Sunday shifts at Central Market in Mill Creek only. Please participate. This is the major fund raiser which allows the post to support veterans and our community projects. The more people we have on hand, the more poppies we hand out and the more money we collect. Besides, it's fun!



### Annual Memorial Day Observance, Edmonds Cemetery.

Monday, May 29, 11:00 AM. Join our color guard and participate in the ceremonies to honor the fallen.

### Edmonds Veterans Plaza Dedication

Monday, May 29, 2:00 PM at the plaza, located at 6th Ave & Bell St in downtown Edmonds.

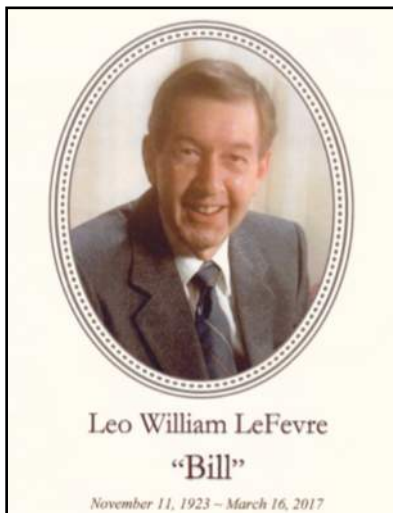


Laura Drewer

### Patriot's Pen Winner Reprises Essay

At our March post meeting, we were honored to have Laura Drewer reprise her winning 1951 Patriots Pen essay.

### In Memoriam



Leo William (Bill) LeFevre of Edmonds, one of our few remaining WWII combat veterans passed away on March 16. He was 93 years of age.

While not a member of our post, Bill was a veteran of WWII, serving in Europe as a BAR man with the 99th Infantry Division. He was wounded at Bastogne, just at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, for which action he received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He returned to his unit following recovery in England.

Bill was a widower of many years, the father of five and an engineer with Lockheed and later Boeing, working in defense projects. He was a poet, violinist and singer of considerable skill. A kinder man and a better friend you are unlikely to find. Your editor sang with him for many years in the Holy Rosary Church Choir, where he was the longest serving member at 43 years, until the last month of his life.

## Speaker Slated for April Post Meeting

Sara Jane Ruggles, a public history graduate student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, will speak to us about the The Edmonds Museum Oral History Project, which will begin with collecting stories about the wartime memories of Edmonds veterans.

# Snohomish County Regional Job & Resource Fair

**Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Armed Forces Reserve Center**

10 - 11 am Veterans Preference  
11 am - 2 pm Open to the Public

13613 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Marysville, WA 98271

***Dress in Business Attire & Bring Your Resume!***

**Meet 60 + Employers in these industries and more**

- **Aerospace**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Public Utilities**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Transportation**
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### For more information contact:

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**George E. Johnson**  
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## 50 YEARS LATER

### Vietnam Veterans Honored

Veterans of the Vietnam War were honored during a special 50th Anniversary commemoration ceremony held at Tahoma National Cemetery on Saturday, April 1.

Keynote Speaker for the event was Jim Martinson. A Vietnam Veteran himself, Martinson lost both legs above the knee as a result of an action near Da Nang in 1968.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Tahoma National Cemetery will honor the service, sacrifice, and enduring achievements of the Vietnam Veterans at this Vietnam War Commemoration 50th Anniversary event, through a special pinning ceremony. (Image of pin at right)



Those eligible include any living US Veteran who served on active duty in the US Armed Forces between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. The pins were presented by Jim Martinson and Cemetery Director Thomas Yokes.

## 100 YEARS LATER

### World War I Veterans Who Shaped Future Decades (A Century Ago)



World War I (1917-18) produced some of America's most prestigious leaders from among the 2 million doughboys who served overseas. As we enter the month of April, 2017, 100 years after the U.S. entered the war, here are just a few of the notable combat veterans of that conflict:

**Harry S. Truman**

33rd President of the United States, Life Member, VFW

**Christopher Mathewson**

Baseball Player

**Walter A. Brennan**

Actor

**Laurence T. Stallings**

Author

**Edwin P. Hubble**

Scientist

**Robert R. McCormick**

Publisher

*From an article featured in the April 2017 issue of VFW magazine written by Janie Dyhouse, associate editor, VFW magazine. For details of the service of these men and their later contributions, see the article in VFW Magazine, or follow this link to the online version:*

<https://www.vfw.org/news-and-publications/press-room/archives/2017/3/world-war-i-veterans-who-shaped-future-decades>



## The Chaplain's Corner

by Dan Doyle

### Meet The Man Who Survived The Kamikaze Attacks Below Deck On The USS Bunker Hill They were the greatest generation, indeed.

Francois Joseph Richer was a regular guy, a teenager from New Bedford, MA when the WWII broke out. Like so many of his peers he entered the Navy to join the cause. He went through boot camp at Newport, RI and was trained to be a Water Tender, producing the steam to drive the huge turbine engines of the ships of that era. After training he was assigned to the aircraft carrier, USS Bunker Hill (CV-17) and he served aboard that mighty ship for his entire enlistment. I had the chance to interview him personally at his home in Carson City, NV recently, and this is his story, and the story of the Bunker Hill, which was hit by two kamikaze fighter while she was supporting the battle for Okinawa.

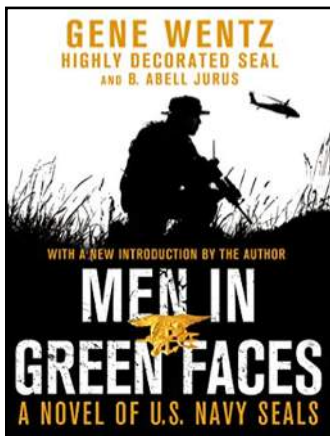
Read the entire account of Richer's experience on The Veterans Site.com at:

<http://blog.theveteranssite.com/frank-richer/>

*This is the first of what will be an ongoing series from Chaplain Dan Doyle's Veterans Blog.*

### From the Bookshelf

by Mike Denton



“With just weeks remaining in his 180-day tour of Vietnam, Navy SEAL Gene Michaels hopes he will live to see his pregnant wife again, but he thrives on his dangerous missions. Michaels and his team are "inserted and extracted" literally every day, entering impenetrable jungles and engaging numerically superior forces.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

Wentz and Jurus are not the best writers I have read, with a penchant to distract us with repeated explanations of terminology. (How many times must the initials “PBR” be explained as Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer, which seems to be in endless supply at this SEAL base, and there are numerous other examples)

Never the less, the operations described are in themselves gripping, if repetitive and I found the book well worth reading.

GENE WENTZ served in Vietnam as a SEAL. His many decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, three Presidential Unit Citations, three Navy Unit Citations, and two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry. Wentz, says he's had the story of "Men in Green Faces" bottled up inside him since he returned from his second combat tour in Vietnam in 1971.

Jurus is a writer and a director of the San Diego-based Southern California Writers Conference.

*Kirkus Reviews*, allowed that Wentz and Jurus "successfully re-create the manic intensity that characterized SEAL operations at their height during the Vietnam War. . . . All war, no politics. Grim but well done." Wentz makes no apologies for the no-politics approach: "The people serving in Vietnam had nothing to do with politics. They were just following orders, doing a job." If that kind of thinking makes you uneasy, "Men in Green Faces" probably isn't for you.