



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW Post 8870  
and Auxiliary  
Edmonds, WA  
[www.vfw8870.org](http://www.vfw8870.org)  
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Vol. 13 No.7  
July 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  
(Watch for a change in meeting nights in September 2017)

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

### The 2017 Winners of Post 8870's Norm Goldstein Freedom Scholarship



Above L to R: Erin Dahl, Kamiak H.S. Kilie Otani, Mountlake Terrace HS, Terry Traner, Norm Goldstein, Terry Crabtree, Van Honglam from Mariner HS and Thinh Do, Meadowdale HS.



At the June Post meeting the winners of the Norm Goldstein Freedom Scholarship were present to read their winning essays and receive the congratulations of the membership.

Norm Goldstein, Post 8870 member and WWII Navy veteran was present at Mountlake Terrace H.S. Senior Awards night for the presentation ceremony of that school's winner, Kilie Otani. Norm, a Navy veteran of WWII received a warm welcome from two former students who are now faculty members at Mountlake Terrace. Norm retired as Vice principal of Mountlake Terrace H.S. in 1980 after a long career teaching and coaching basketball there and at Ballard H.S.

Above right, Norm took the opportunity to personally congratulate all of the winners.

## 2017-18 Post Officers Installed

District 1 Commander Don Wischman acted as our installing officer to swear in the 2017-18 Post Officers, who are listed below.



Commander	David M. (Mike) Denton
Sr. Vice Commander	Carl F. Kurfess
Jr. Vice Commander	Rose Gilliland
Quartermaster	Dennis L. Peterson
Chaplain	Daniel J. Doyle
Judge Advocate	Aaron M. Terwedo
Adjutant	Richard F. Simmons
1 Year Trustee	Daniel A. White
2 Year Trustee	James R. McCann
3 Year Trustee	James M. Traner

At left are 2016-17 Commander Terry Crabtree, incoming Commander Mike Denton and District 1 Commander Don Wischman, our installing officer.

## Welcome New Member Sara Brannan



Sara Brannan an E4 Army veteran who served in Desert Storm and the Gulf War. Sara is transferring from another Post and is also a life member of VFW. She has four children and is a school teacher. Cdr. Crabtree swore Sara into the post and members gave her a round of applause.

Sara is shown at left with Officer of the Day Jim Collins.



## Your 2017-18 Department of Washington Convention Delegates

L to R: Jim Traner, Terry Crabtree, Carl Kurfess, Dennis Peterson, Mike Denton Jim McCann & Jim Blossey.

### Veterans Affairs Disability: “Presumptive” list.

In order to qualify for [VA Disability](#), a condition must be [service-connected](#). But what if a serious condition develops that doesn’t fulfill the normal requirements for service-connection? Enter the VA Presumptive List.



In most cases, conditions that cannot be proved service-connected are denied benefits. Over time, however, the VA began noticing patterns in the types of conditions to develop in veterans who had served in similar circumstances. In other words, a significant number of vets who served in the same place at the same time developed similar conditions in a similar time frame.

Since these conditions were not diagnosed while in the military or do not meet the other requirements for [service-connection](#), they technically cannot be considered service-connected. With the number of vets developing these conditions, however, the VA decided that the evidence was too solid to be coincidental. Military service likely caused those conditions. So, the VA created their VA Presumptive List.

**The VA “presumes” that any condition on the VA Presumptive List was caused by military service even though there may be no medical reasoning that definitively proves this connection.**

The following link will show you the entire extensive list of Agent Orange related diseases and a much longer list of other conditions resulting from other exposures in all of our recent wars.

<http://www.militarydisabilitymadeeasy.com/vapresumptivelist.html>

Very few in the civilian medical community seem to be aware of these connections and the potential for substantial financial relief to veteran patients. If you, as a veteran, suffer from any condition on this extensive list, by all means, contact a Veteran Service Officer. You may well be eligible for benefits of which you are unaware. Our Post Service officers, Don Whedon and Paul Russo are a great source. Don’t hesitate to get in touch with them if you need help.

## From The Book Shelf

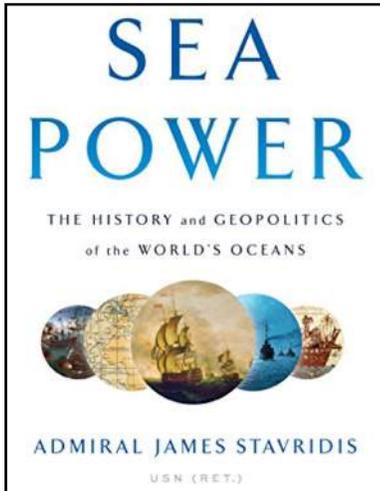
by Mike Denton

### SEA POWER

The History and Geopolitics of the World's Oceans

by Admiral James Stavridis (USN Ret'd)

The subtitle of the books tells us a great deal about it's content, in that Admiral Stavridis examines in great but interesting detail the military/ naval history of every ocean on the planet and the influence of those large bodies of water on economies and politics throughout human history.



Stavridis, the only Naval officer to ever serve as Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, spent much of his early career as a Surface Warfare Officer (What we non aviation types think of as the real Navy) in destroyers and cruisers and seems to have taken maximum advantage of the opportunity to cruise the oceans of the world, and acquire a broad sense of how the oceans impact our lives.

Stavridis examines the world ocean by ocean, from the Mediteranean to the Arctic and everything in between. Most of us, I think, know little about the history of the worlds coastal (or "Littoral, a word of which he seems inordinately fond) peoples prior to the voyages of Columbus and the early Portugese explorers, but the Admiral gives us a good look at the early sailors of all of the world's major civilizations and some not so major.

Other reviewers comments: "...knows his maritime history, but equally important is his firsthand knowledge of the seas. He vividly relates what it felt like as a young naval officer taking a boat through the Panama Canal or the Torres Strait between Australia and New Guinea, and he adds personal authority to his more general points about the different bodies of water...A highly readable, instructive look at the role of the oceans in our civilization, past and present." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

"Fellow Admiral Jim Stavridis spent nearly four decades as a US Navy Sailor, and is well known as an important geopolitical thinker. In *Sea Power* both of those attributes come together in creating a must read for anyone seriously thinking about the world's challenges in the 21st century." —*Admiral Bill McRaven, USN (Ret.), Chancellor, The University of Texas System and former Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command*



### Auxiliary Installs New Officers



VFW Post 8870 Auxilliary installed new officers at their last meeting

Seated is Valerie Ehlers President

Shown at Top L to R are Ruth Herren, installation officer, Jo Boyett, Past Secretary and Treasurer & Nancy Dietrick, Chaplain

The Auxilliary is looking for veterans family & friends to join their group and strengthen their activities.

## Annual July 4th Parade and Barbecue!



A large contingent of veterans, members of VFW Post 8870 and our friends from American Legion Post 66, as well as others from the Military order of the Purple Heart, lined up in downtown Edmonds to participate in the annual “Edmonds Kind of 4th” parade.

Veterans formed the leading color guard for the parade and received an extremely warm and enthusiastic response from the huge crowd lining the streets. The parade follows an approximately 1.9 mile course through downtown Edmonds, which takes it through the entire downtown area. We were fortunate to have several jeep type vehicles to allow some of our senior members to participate.

Following the parade, our usual barbecue took place at the American Legion Hall, where our wonderful crew of set up people and grillmasters put together a terrific meal of hamburgers, hot dogs and appropriate salad, chips and drinks.



Forming up for the parade



Three expert grillmasters hard at work on the barbecue



Lunch is Served!



## Edmonds Post Sponsors “Hero’s Cafe”

Post 8870 sponsored the July Hero’s Cafe , a monthly gathering for all veterans to focus on fostering positive outreach, interaction, and welfare within our community. This month’s event at the Verdant Wellness Center in Lynnwood, was well attended by approximately 85 veterans, friends and family.



The sponsoring Veterans organization each month is responsible to provide funds for food and other expenses and also personnel to set up and tear down for the event.

Post 8870 members Mike Denton, Les Abel, Carl Kurfess and Phil Sacks were present to execute our responsibilities, arriving early in the morning between 0830 and 0900 and staying to help host the event until around 1430 when clean up was complete.

Lynnwood Mayor Nicola Smith was present with a few remarks and to introduce the featured program consisting of a

presentation from Snohomish County Fire District 1 on the proposed merger of the Lynnwood Fire Department with the Fire District.

Hero’s Cafe is sponsored by the City of Lynnwood, Work Source, VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Gold Star Mothers, Catholic Charities USA and the EdCC Veterans Resource Center.

## Vietnam Retrospective

*The following is an excerpt from a lengthy article written in response to a college student who asked for personal narratives addressing the question: "What is a Vietnam Veteran?"*

“Mostly--and this I believe with all my heart--mostly, we wish we had not been so alone. Some of us went with units; but many, probably most of us, were civilians one day, jerked up out of "the world," shaved, barked at, insulted, humiliated, de-egoized and taught to kill, to fix radios, to drive trucks. We went, put in our time, and were equally ungraciously plucked out of the morass and placed back in the real world. But now we smoked dope, shot skag, or drank heavily. Our wives or husbands seemed distant and strange. Our friends wanted to know if we shot anybody.

And life went on, had been going on, as if we hadn't been there, as if Vietnam was a topic of political conversation or college protest or news copy, not a matter of life and death for tens of thousands. “

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