



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



VFW Auxiliary

The Veterans' Voice

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

PO Box 701, Edmonds, WA 98020 - 425-245-8545

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Commander Rose Gilliland, commander@vfw8870.org
Newsletter Editor, Mike Denton, editor@vfw8870.org

Post Calendar

Staff Meeting: First Wed, 4:30 PM at American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds
Post Meetings: Third Wed., American Legion Hall, Dinner at 5:00 PM (\$5) Meeting at 6:00 PM
District 1 Memorial Event, Everett Post 2100, Saturday February 15. Lunch at noon, ceremony follows.
Post Service Officer Session & membership drive. American Legion Hall, Sat. Feb 29, 10Am-2PM
Post Auxiliary Meeting: Second Thurs., at Holy Trinity Church, 657 Daley St in Edmonds, No host lunch.
(Questions: call Patsy Ethridge-Neal phone: (206) 919-6533

Our next regular Post meeting will be on Wed. Feb. 19, 2020

Meeting and event information can be found on the Post website: www.vfw8870.org

Fair Winds a & Following Seas Edgar Shepherd

WWII Navy Veteran dies at 101

Edmonds VFW Post 8870 lost one of its most senior members when Edgar Shepherd left us on January 27 at his home in Edmonds, surrounded by his family. Born July 4, 1918 in Trafford, PA, Ed celebrated his 101st birthday this past summer. Twice widowed, Ed is Survived by brother Thomas Shepherd, 4 children: 6 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.



Edgar survived the sinking of USS Helena (CL50) in the Battle of Kula Gulf, July 6, 1943. The light cruiser, which had come through the Pearl Harbor attack, was tasked with protecting other ships during the Guadalcanal campaign. Nearly 170 shipmates perished. Shepherd was part of a group who survived, clinging to a liferaft. He kept a dollar bill signed by the sailors who survived with him. It was one of two bills he had in his pocket at the time. He used the other bill, a five, to pay for telegrams so they could tell their families they were alive.

Ed joined the Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. A Fire Control Technician, he worked in the plotting room, which included the control system for the guns. He also fought in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa aboard USS Louisville, CA28. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for work greatly enhancing the accuracy of the ship's 8" guns.

After finishing his time at sea, he helped start a Navy reserve center in Colorado before moving to California to help his uncle open a doughnut shop. He got a job in Los Angeles at an electrical company

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A friend persuaded him to visit Seattle, and Shepherd bought a house in Edmonds where he was living at the time of his death with daughter Paula Kilbourne.

Paula once offered to take him whitewater rafting. He turned her down. She asked if he didn't think she'd be a good guide. That's not it, he told her. He had clung to a rubber raft, adrift in dark waters after the USS Helena sank. He wasn't interested in getting on a raft again.

No local services were scheduled. Memorial contribution to Edmonds VFW, Edmonds Senior Center or the Lynnwood Elks are suggested.

WWII Marine Corps Vet Dies at 100



Clara Jennings, who served in the US Marine Corps during World War II, died just days after her 100th birthday, which was January 27. While not herself a member of VFW, she was the mother in law of member Dick Harsin, one of our Vietnam Navy veterans. The family has requested donations to be made to VFW Post 8870 in her honor.

Many were honored with the opportunity to meet Jennings at the 2019 Veterans Day Ceremony at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza, where this photo was taken.

VFW Post 8870 Announces Freedom Scholarship

*By
Don Stapleton*

Commander Rose Gililand has announced the Post will once again offer their Freedom Scholarship to graduating high school seniors. Student qualifications include having at least one sibling, parent, or grandparent that is a United States Military Veteran; and, reside within the Edmonds and Mukilteo Public School Districts. Students who reside within the boundaries of the districts but attend private schools or are home schooled are also eligible. Each of the four scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,500.00 and will be awarded to seniors who will be enrolling full time at an accredited college, university or technical school.

Students will be required to submit a transcript of their high school academic record and a resume that lists the high school activities in which they participated. In addition, applicants will be asked to write a 300-500-word essay in which they explain the meaning of freedom to them and how our Constitution establishes and maintains a culture of freedom in our country.

Students may obtain a Freedom Scholarship application from the Career Centers in their high schools or it can be downloaded from the VFW Post web site at www.vfw8870.org. The deadline for the submission of the application and supporting materials is April 15, 2020. Scholarship recipients will be notified of their selection prior to their high school's spring awards program.

January Post Meeting Was Cancelled

The snow storm the week of January 15 caused the January meeting to be cancelled by Commander Rose Gililand, in the interest of the safety of our members and guests.

The program for that meeting was to have featured our student essay winners and our Teachers of the year. That program has been shifted forward to the February meeting. Our meal will be provided by the post Auxilliary.

Don't miss it.

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Vets and Agent Orange

New map helps Vets locate ship positions

from "Military Times"

A [new interactive map](https://www.hillandponton.com/blue-water-navy-vietnam-map/) (<https://www.hillandponton.com/blue-water-navy-vietnam-map/>) could help ill Vietnam veterans who served on U.S. ships determine whether they could be eligible for Agent Orange-related benefits. The law allows veterans who served on a ship that operated within 12 nautical miles of a line of demarcation established by law and have an illness presumed related to herbicide exposure, to apply for health benefits and disability compensation.

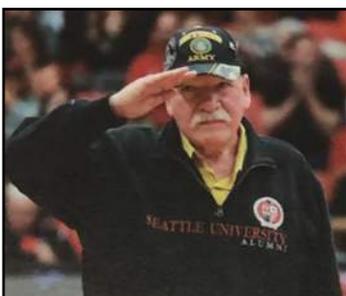


Over 1,700 deck logs have been plotted to date, and new information continues to be added. The map is hosted online by the disability law firm Hill & Ponton one of numerous law firms which vie to assist veterans in drafting and filing disability claims with VA. Veterans service organizations provide similar assistance free of charge. As part of filing disability claims, veterans must show they served on a U.S. vessel when it

traversed the congressionally drawn zone.

Veterans who were on ships that aren't yet mapped or who served outside the zone, such as in the Gulf of Tonkin, should contact [Military Veterans Advocacy](#) and the [Blue Water Navy Association](#) if they have one of 14 diseases listed by the VA as linked to Agent Orange. They may still be able to file a claim.

Vets Honored at Seattle Univ. Homecoming



Edmonds VFW Post 8870's Post Service Officer Don Whedon was among alumni veterans honored at the Seattle University Homecoming and Reunion in November. The event featured a Homecoming parade and basketball game at which the veterans were recognized.



The event will feature 2 films: “Proof of Loyalty” and “Honor and Sacrifice”. Both are by Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers. After the films we will have a discussion panel with both of the film makers and Joyce Yamane, whose father is featured in Proof of Loyalty and Karen Matsumoto, daughter of Roy Matsumoto who is featured in Honor and Sacrifice.

Michael Reagan did a series of drawings related to the Nisei (2nd Generation) Veterans and will bring a poster of them to the event. The event and films shed light on the living conditions and treatment of Japanese Americans both before America entered WWII, and after December 7th when many Americans of Japanese descent were sent to internment camps. Some of the people living in the camps joined the Military and served in one of two segregated units (100th or 442nd) that served with great distinction in Europe.



Post Service Officer Set to Help Members

Don Whedon, Edmonds VFW Post 8870 Service Officer, sees a need for enhanced availability to VFW members in need of assistance in receiving their veterans benefits. The process of applying and gaining approval for medical, disability and other benefits can be daunting for the uninitiated. Don is here to help and is very experienced in this area.

To that end Whedon will begin establishing some regular service hours for the Post. This will initially be located at the Edmonds American Legion Hall. In addition, Whedon can, when needed, make other arrangements to meet with individual veterans offsite. Veterans can contact Whedon directly: (425-218-0034)

The first such session will be on Saturday, February 29, between 10 AM and 2 PM. We will have the coffee on and some donuts and such on hand.

A one time telephone drive will be held concurrently to contact members of VFW Post 8870 who have overlooked renewing, to remind them to do so. Qualified Veterans not already members, are also welcome to stop by and put in their application. (Be sure to bring your DD214)

Reminder: Order Your Edmonds Veterans PlazaVP Memorial Pavers

We still have room in our current flight of pavers. If you, or someone you know wishes to honor a veteran, living or dead, we continue to expand our memorial pavers project in the plaza. Ideally, an additional five paver orders would round out the next installation phase. The cost is \$ 500, which includes engraving & installation. You will find the order form on the Post web site. Cut and past the link below in your browser.

<http://vfw8870.org/?s=pavers&searchsubmit.x=0&searchsubmit.y=0>