

Upcoming Calendar

May 1st, 2010	District I Convention—Noon— Alderwood Boys & Girls Club.
May 11th	Board Meeting 09:15—Traner's Office
May 14th	Post 8870 Meeting 11:30—South Snohomish Senior Center
May 28-29th	Buddy Poppies at various stores—Check with Bob Crawford for shift schedule
May 30th	Remembrance Day—1:00 PM Mukilteo Cemetery
May 31st	Memorial Day Ceremony—11:00AM Edmonds Cemetery
June 17th-20th	State Convention—Vancouver, WA

Buddy Poppy Thank You

I will no longer continue to bore you with asking for volunteers to help out Memorial Day weekend. Bob Crawford has filled all the slots. I believe this is the earliest this has been done. Thanks to Bob and to everyone who is working a shift(s). Hopefully, the weather will be great and we will do well in getting donations for our Relief Fund.

District I Needs Volunteers

District I has a fundraiser on May 7th through the 10th at the Smokey Point rest area. If you would like to assist, contact Bill Morse at 425-232-8453.

Maj. Joe Crecca, USAF, Ret.

Members are urged to make a special effort to attend our June 11 meeting, so that you can hear the very compelling story of Maj. Joe Crecca. As a 1st Lt. in the Air Force, Joe was flying his 87th combat mission in an F4-C when he was shot down by a SAM in the vicinity of "Thud Ridge", in North Vietnam. He successfully ejected from his crippled aircraft and was immediately captured when he hit the ground. For the next 2,280 days, Maj. Crecca was held as a prisoner of war in Hanoi. During most of his captivity, he was held in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton". While a POW, Joe was instrumental in memorizing the names of over 700 of his fellow POW's, which aided in the accounting of the Americans held in captivity. Members are urged to bring family members and friends to hear Joe's remarkable story on June 11, 2010.

Fujio "Frank" Suhara—Guest Speaker at April's Meeting



Fred Apgar has done a fine job in arranging speakers this year. However, Frank came to us through a friendship with Buck Weaver. Frank said he would talk about internment during WWII in the Minidoka Relocation Center one last time because Buck had asked him to. Frank was a young teenager living in Seattle when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. A few months later, Frank and his family were interned first at the Puyallup Assembly Area (now the Puyallup Fairgrounds) and then were taken by train to Hunt, ID and the Minidoka Relocation Center. I had read about the internment of Americans of Japanese descent, but never had the opportunity to listen to anyone speak of it at a personal level. For someone as American and patriotic as Frank, it was a difficult experience judging from his remarks and reading between the lines. Frank was too young to join the army so he was in the camp until the end of the war. Living conditions were deplorable. Hot in the summer, freezing in the winter, it wasn't an experience that a kid from the city was ready for. However, Frank returned to Seattle, with his family, following the end of the war where they started their lives over again. Frank joined the Army and fought in Korea. He is a member of the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC). The Post, with Buck as the chair, is planning on visiting the NVC Memorial Hall located in the International District sometime this fall. Frank told me he was a bit worried about the reception he might receive from our group, but he was warmly welcomed as a fellow veteran and as a man with an important story about another aspect of WWII.

Post Welcomes Harry Miller as a New Member at April Meeting



It was a pleasure inducting Harry Miller into our Post. Harry served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. A young lieutenant in Harry's outfit in WWII was George S. Patton, the son of the famous general. Many years later, Patton was my Regimental CO in Vietnam. Harry plays in the band at the Senior Center and we look forward to hearing him while we eat lunch.

Surgeon Al Boyett Receives JASON Award



Pictured above is District One Quartermaster Ron Haley presenting Al Boyett with the JASON award. The award recognizes perfect reporting by the Surgeon from July to November. Al, however, has perfect reporting all year. Never the less, Al has a wall full of these awards. Congratulations to him.

Elected Officers for 2010-2011

Commander	Jim Traner
Senior Vice Commander	Rock Roth
Junior Vice Commander	Fred Apgar
Quartermaster	Elizabeth Mather
Chaplin	Ed Gray
Judge Advocate	Leroy Middleton
Surgeon	Al Boyett
1st Year Trustee	Phil Sacks

The Post held its annual election of officers during the April Meeting. The incoming officers for 2010-2011 (ouch—2011 is just around the corner) are listed above. Appointed officers will be listed in the next newsletter. Thanks to Buck Weaver who led the nominating committee.

Upcoming Programs

- May—Induction of officers and longevity awards
- June—Joe Crecca—Pilot and POW—Vietnam
- July—Erv Schmidt—The submarine duty during WWII

Librarian Lisa Castrogiovanni



The Sno-Isle Library System and the Edmonds Library are having a series of events talking about Vietnam. They are using Tim O'Brien's book "The Things They Carried" as theme for the event. Lisa invited all the veterans to the event and asked if any of the Vietnam vets would temporarily loan any items they carried overseas. On 5/17 at 7PM there will be a stage play of the book and on 5/19 at 7PM a discussion of it.

Phone 425-670-8912

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Proclamation

City of Edmonds • Office of the Mayor

Loyalty Day May 1, 2010

- WHEREAS,** In 1958, the United States Congress designated May first of every year as Loyalty Day; and
- WHEREAS,** Loyalty Day was established as a day for reaffirming our loyalty to the United States and the documents upon which our nation was founded; and
- WHEREAS,** Loyalty Day provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the many freedoms secured and preserved for us by the brave patriots who have served in our nation's armed forces and risked their lives for liberty and independence; and
- WHEREAS,** it is fitting that the citizens of Edmonds take time to reflect upon the privileges of democracy and liberty extended to us by the institutions of American Freedom; and
- WHEREAS,** there continue to exist in the world today hostile forces that are dedicated to destroying our way of life in America.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Gary Haakenson, Mayor, proudly join the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8870 in proclaiming May 1 as

Loyalty Day in Edmonds

and encourage all citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to this great nation and to take time to remember the brave men and women serve our country in the name of freedom.


Gary Haakenson, Mayor
April 23, 2010

Est. 1890

Post Secures Loyalty Day Proclamation from Mayor

A very overlooked day in America is May 1st. In fact, if you were to ask most Americans who were around during the Cold War about May 1st, they would say it was a Communist holiday. They, of course, would be correct. We all remember the missiles, tanks, and soldiers marching in front of the Kremlin. But it is also Loyalty Day in America. The Proclamation from the City of Edmonds explains the meaning of Loyalty Day and why it was established. Fred Apgar was instrumental in the issuance of the Proclamation as he drafted the wording and submitted it to the City. Again, this is the VFW making the citizens aware of this day. For the VFW members, however, every day is Loyalty Day.

Member Timm Lovitt in the News

Timm is one of our younger members who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He currently attends Seattle University where he is currently pursuing an undergrad degree and then plans on getting a Masters in Public Administration. There is a very nice article of him in the Campus Magazine which you can get at:

<http://www.seattleu.edu/magazine/Article.aspx?id=57499>

It's a great piece about Timm and how he is coping in school with TBI (traumatic brain injury) incurred when an IED detonated near his Humvee. We wish Timm the best in his educational endeavors.

The Last Word

At the last meeting, I was re-elected as Post Commander. I truly appreciate the honor. On one hand, it takes a bit of time to meet the requirements of the job description, but I have an officer group that is awesome and a Post membership that is active. Not knowing what the level of involvement or expertise of other Posts' staff, it is a bit presumptuous to say we have a group of officers that is better than any of the other Posts'. I'll say, however, I will put them up against any other group that's out there. Without them, I wouldn't even consider being a Commander. Being a CPA, 3 months of each year are brutal. The other 9 months are only demanding. It is certainly nice to work with people that require no follow-up and are professional in everything they do. In addition, the members have stepped forward whenever asked. We now have a speakers bureau that is willing to go and talk to groups that request veterans. Two months in advance, Poppy Chair Bob Crawford has completely filled sign-up sheets with volunteers to work the many stores where we distribute Poppies. We raise funds with Poppy donations, but we also raise awareness of the importance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day (Remembrance Day and Armistice Day to our throw-backs). This year we will participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Mukilteo, Memorial Day ceremonies in Edmonds, the 4th of July parade, and a number of school assemblies and classroom discussions. So to each and every member, I thank you for your efforts and for your support to the Post. Lastly, we are growing and shrinking at the same time. We induct new members virtually every meeting while, at the same meeting, drape our charter for our fellow members who have passed on. My goal this year is to get the new members involved in the Post activities. Please reach out to these individuals. And reach out to other veterans and invite them to come to our meetings. If they aren't eligible for VFW, have them get involved with the American Legion. Again, a warm thank you to each and every one of you.