



VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org
Jim Traner, Editor

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Post Loses Long Time Member Hi Running

The Post lost long time member Hi Running who passed away on May 13th. Services for Hi were held at Beck's Funeral Home in Edmonds on Saturday May 17th. Commander Pounds and other members of the Post were in attendance. Chaplin Ed Gray orchestrated and presided over the services and did an excellent job. The family has asked that donations may be made in Hi's name to our Post.

Memorial Day Services

The Post participated in services at the Edmonds Cemetery. This year the Submarine service and the "Rosie the Riveters" were honored. Our own Ervin Schmidt, of course, spent WWII underwater. We salute him and all of his fellow Submariners both living and deceased. And we also thank those women who put the airplanes, ships, and tanks that helped win the war.



Post Social Function



Members enjoyed lunch and fellowship at the Highland Park social room. These are great opportunities to visit and get to know one another without the background noise of the Senior Center at lunch. Although the photograph doesn't show it, there was enough food to feed the entire Post several times over had everyone shown up. The Sub Shop at Westgate was kind enough to provide the food at no cost so we particularly wanted to thank them. Seated are Ken Chaplin, Buck Weaver, Earl Prebezac, & Les Able.

Post 8870 Receives Award



For the first time in the Post's history, the District awarded Post 8870 with the Best in the District Post Award. Commander Duane Pounds proudly presented the award to the Post. Seated to Duane's left is Mrs. Jan Beam, Past State Auxiliary President. And behind him (poor camera work by your editor) is her husband, John Beam, Past District Commander. The two were present to induct Post and Auxiliary officers for the 2008-2009 year. The list of the new Post officers was published in the last newsletter.

Need A Lift?

If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email. We can't promise we can get everyone, but we sure will give it a good try. A lot of guys are getting grounded, so to speak, but that isn't a good reason to miss a meeting. On the other hand, if you are interested in providing transportation to a fellow member, let Liz know and she can match riders with drivers.

Meeting Place & Time

VFW Post 8870 meets the second Friday of each month (except November which is the third Friday) at the Senior Center located at 220 Railroad Ave. Edmonds, WA 98020. We welcome all veterans of foreign wars to attend our meetings. If you need any additional information, please contact our Quartermaster.



Fund Raising via the Internet

Earl Prebezac has agreed to assist the Post in raising funds via Ebay. Here's how it works. If you have an item that you no longer need but would be valuable to someone else, give it to Earl. He will then list it on Ebay, basically an online garage and auction sale for you non-techies, and donate 80% of the proceeds to the Post (the 20% covers Earl's overhead and time to catalog and ship it). I suspect Earl would prefer items easily handled leaving out old motor blocks, refrigerators, and used TV's. So root around your house and garage and find some items that you no longer need. Run them by Earl before you drag them to a meeting. Remember, your junk may help the Post's general fund and also get your wife off your back to get rid of it.

A Little Trivia

Leroy Middleton provides the Post with a trivia question at the end of each meeting. It usually covers an event in WWII. I've decided that we needed a little Vietnam era trivia and I'll add Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, etc. if any of you younger guys provide it to me. Here's your question—What tire manufacturer had the largest rubber tree plantation in Vietnam?

Answer: The Michelin Tire Company

Command Pounds Recognizes Members



Al Boyett - Surgeon, Phil Sacks - Poppy Chairman, & Roosevelt Ward - Service Officer are recognized by Commander Pounds for their service to the Post. Al's & Phil's awards were actually District awards for their outstanding performance of duties. John Beam, Past District Commander, is in the background.

Eagle Court of Honor for Samuel Mullins

Samuel Mullins, a member of Troop 61 in Brier, WA will be receiving his Eagle Scout award on Friday, June 6 at 7:00PM at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Our Post is invited to attend this ceremony and Commander Pounds would like to see as many members of the Post as possible attend the ceremony. The address of the church is 3215 Larch Way, Lynnwood, WA 98036 for those planning to attend.



Reminder - July 4th Parade. Please remember that all members are encouraged to march (or ride) in the parade. Contact Rock Roth with any questions you may have.

The Purpose and Eligibility Requirements for VFW

The Purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

A person may not be a member of the VFW unless that person –

1. Served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service has been recognized as campaign-medal service and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the Government of the United States; or
2. While a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, served honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949, or
3. While a member of the armed forces serving in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.



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The Last Word

I recently received an email from a fellow that was in my section in Vietnam. We had lost track of each other but both of us had joined our regimental organization. Through the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, he was able to run down my email address. I hadn't heard from Donnie in 40 years and the last time I saw him was in the boonies when he was 19 or 20 years old. Today, he's retired psychiatrist in Pueblo, CO. We shared a lot of experiences over there that lose something in the retelling.. Those shared experiences provide a bond that made 40 years disappear in an instant. On June 6, 1968, 40 years ago this week, several events took place. We learned that day that Robert Kennedy was shot and killed, stunning us about what was happening back in the "world". I turned 21 that day, gave mouth to mouth resuscitation to Donnie, and my dad was able to get a bottle of Jack Black through the army mail system that ended up arriving in the mail sack that was thrown into the dust-off (medivac to civilians) helicopter that came out to get Donnie. As I recall, June 7 was a tough day due to the worse hangover of my life (thanks Dad). As Donnie and I shared our thoughts of that day 40 years ago, you could almost feel the calendar roll backwards in both of our minds. Donnie was able to return to the field and ultimately took over my position when I rotated out. As Donnie said, "I think of the guys I was with in Vietnam all the time...".

I don't know if Donnie is a member of the VFW or not, but hopefully he is. We may think of our old comrades, but with the VFW we are given the opportunity to meet new comrades who shared similar experiences, promote democracy in our schools and community, and assist veterans who require assistance. Not a bad agenda for an organization, is it?

And one last item. Irv Schmidt tells me he has copies of "US Submarines in WWII" and "Pearl Harbor". The cost is \$25 for each of them and the Post receives \$5 from each book sold. See Irv or drop him a line if you're interesting in some fascinating reading.



VFW Post 1763 Reopened at Long Last

Irv Schmidt sent this article to me from The Sun newspaper in Yuma, AZ. In a letter accompanying the article, Irv said that a number of the members of our Post had sent checks to Post 1763 to assist them in their rebuilding efforts. I doubt I'll have a chance to stop by and have a burger and a beer, but for you guys who winter down there, I'm sure Post 1763 would welcome you with open arms.

The members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1763 never gave up on getting a new facility after a fire destroyed their original one. Not even after the plan to rebuild was set back when the hired contractor allegedly abandoned the project.

The members knew that getting their building back was going to be a struggle "but sometimes a struggle is worth it, if the results are favorable in the end. We're not afraid. We've got guys, hardened veterans. They've seen a lot more than just trying to rebuild this, I assure you," said VFW Post 1763 Post Commander Frank Sheridan.

A new VFW Post No. 1763 is completed. The 2,400 square-foot building on 2485 E. 14th St., opened early Saturday with members fixing last minute details to get ready for their first meeting there.

"We are totally elated ... we're so busy trying to get final touches to everything that I haven't felt the full impact of us opening. And to say we're proud - it's just hard to realize but we are all proud of what we've done," Sheridan said.

The new facility is built in the original location where the previous building sat before burning down in a fire started by a popcorn popper in December 2003.

Months of initial delays, setbacks and then legal battles with the contractor previously hired to rebuild the post contributed to it taking more than four years to get the post rebuilt.

The new building is an improvement from the old one: it's well insulated for the hot Yuma summers and it lends itself to be expanded in the future if needed, Sheridan said.

A modern sprinkler system has been installed as well as a fire alarm with a device that directly notifies the fire department in case of any fires.

While this posed a major expense in the rebuilding of the facility, the modern features were installed to avoid a fire recurrence.

"You cannot forsake safety and security," Sheridan said.

The post is open to all veterans from World War II to the current wars, widows, orphans and the community in general, he said.

In addition to being a social meeting place, post members also meet to develop fundraisers to help children and veterans' families and provide support and guidance to veterans on issues like veteran benefits.

"We're going to be moving forward all the time and we're going to make this a success. That's what our goal is now whether we do it with a handful or we do it with an entire membership but we will make this a success," Sheridan said.

Sheridan said with the new building in place the post hopes to attract back the members it lost after the fire. The currently has 294 members.

"It's a welcome home, it's a home that any veteran can feel safe in and proud of and it's something that will be in their hearts the same as it is in ours. They all served their country faithfully and bravely and this is the reward that they get when they can come to their own post home and they're very proud of that," Sheridan said.



Post Members Volunteer for Poppy "Duty" - Random Pictures



Just a few random pictures from our poppy donation efforts over the Memorial Day weekend.

Unfortunately, I didn't have room to print all the pictures that Phil Sacks and Bob Crawford took of the guys and gals who volunteered their time in the fund raising effort. And equally unfortunate, I have to get this newsletter wrapped up before the proceeds are counted, but I'm sure Phil will have a total which will be reported at the next meeting. My offhand guess based on my shifts at QFC, is we did as well or better than last year. In addition, we collected donations at the Memorial Day ceremonies (that's to Bob Crawford and Phil Sacks), so hopefully the additional efforts will push us over our goal.

Michael Reagan, Post Member, on National ABC News

Member Mike Reagan was featured on ABC News with Bob Woodward on Memorial Day. The national news show featured Mike and his Fallen Heroes Portrait project which he shared with the Post several meetings ago. As you may recall, Mike's passion is providing a portrait to any family requesting a portrait of a loved one killed in action which he does without any charge to them. He has provided over 1,100 portraits to date, mostly of service men and women who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan although he has also done portraits of Vietnam KIA's and even a WWI KIA. A tip of the hat to Mike for his excellent work. Hopefully most of you had an opportunity to see the program.



VFW POST 8870 MEETING May 9, 2008

The meeting opened in proper order at 1235 with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray, salute to the flag, pledge of allegiance and the singing of "America" led by Buck Weaver.

In a joint installation ceremony, John Beam, Past State Commander, and Jan Beam, Past State Auxiliary President, respectively swore in the officers of the Post and the officers of the Ladies Auxiliary for the 2008-2009 term of office, and reminded them of their duties and responsibilities as officers.

There were 25 members in attendance. Guest was Earl Horn of Post 1040. The roll call of officers found all present. An application for membership in the post from Peter Sessum was read by Review Committee Member Rock Roth. Admission was approved by the committee subject to receipt of his DD-214. Pete was brought into the post by Jim Traner. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published. The quartermaster's Receipts and Distribution Report for the month of April was distributed to the commander and the trustees and approved as read.

Commander Duane Pounds presented a plaque to Service Officer Roosevelt Ward for his many years of service to Post 8870. Commander Pounds presented District One Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Post 8870 to Phil Sacks, Buddy Poppy Chairman, and Al Boyett, Hospital and Community Service Chairman. The trophy that was presented to Commander Pounds for "Best in the District" was passed around for all to see. This was the first time Post 8870 was awarded this honor by the district.

Americanism Chairman Buck Weaver reminded the post of VE Day, Memorial Day when the flag is flown at half staff until noon, and Flag Day coming up on June 14th. Les Abel reported that the annual flag burning ceremony in Edmonds Park attended by VFW posts, American Legion, and boy scouts was cancelled because of fire regulations. Jim Traner will look into the matter.

Surgeon Al Boyett gave the Hospital and Community Service reports to the post.

Buddy Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks reported that all was just about at the ready for the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. He will give a reminder call to everyone before their designated shifts.

Voice of Democracy Chairman Rock Roth reported that essay winner Stefan Marmion is to read his essay at his high school graduation as part of the ceremony.

Rock also reported that the post had been contacted by Katie Matesky, a second grade teacher at Sherwood Elementary School in Edmonds in regard to her planned service learning experience for her students called "We Are All Americans" and her solicitation for funds to purchase 18 flags to replace those worn out in the school's classrooms. Rock has assumed responsibility for this project and has been working with Ms. Matesky on it. A reception is planned at the school for May 28th tentatively scheduled for 9:20 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. and will be filmed. Clips of it will be shown at a Service Learning Conference held at Seattle University in June. Rock recommends maximum participation at the reception by the post and will send out reminder emails. A motion was made, seconded and approved to give Sherwood Elementary between \$125 and \$200 for purchase of the flags.

Newsletter Editor Jim Traner reported he had extra copies of the April issue for those not on the email or regular mail listings.

A motion was made to give Commander Pounds \$400 to cover some of the expenses for his attendance of the Washington Conference in Vancouver June 18th through June 21st.

The post was reminded of the social meeting to be held on Saturday May 10th at 12 noon in the Gold Room at the Highland Park Condominiums. A side business meeting will be held for those involved with and interested in the eBay Project chaired by Earl Prebezac.

The meeting closed at 2:25 with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray and a salute to the flag.