



# VFW Post 8870

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

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## Smokey Point Fund Raiser is Big Success

The Post's fund raiser at Smokey Point raised over \$600 for the Post's general fund. This was a huge success and certainly helps the Post's financial situation over the coming months. Remember that all of the Poppy proceeds are contributed to the relief fund and not available for general operations of the Post so this fund raiser was certainly good news to all of us. I almost hate handing out kudos as I will certainly miss someone. The usual suspects did more than their fair share. John Casapiedra & Jim Adams anchored the event with Phil Sacks doing his normal fine job of securing food items from QFC at Westgate along with other stores such as Costco. Phil asked that you thank the manager if you are in QFC and happen to see him. We had Charlie Estes who's been a VFW member since 1945 to a couple of the young guys (Peter Sessum and Kyle Berns) who have just joined the Post pitching in and pulled the 2400hrs to 0600 shift (I remember why I hated radio watch now). Of course guys like Phil Sacks (and perhaps others) pulled double duty. Unfortunately, your editor had a previously planned trip so I was unable to pitch in. I'll try and make it up in November. Again, to all who participated to make this a successful event, thank you.



On the left is Charlie Estes, 91, pitching in with a smile for the weary traveler stopping by for a cup of coffee and a snack. On the right, Jim Harkness and Phil Sacks support each other after a long shift. Or perhaps that's Phil supporting himself on Jim. Good job guys.

### 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.



**The Post Raises Money via EBAY**

The same reminder as in the past that Earl Prebezac is seeking items to put on EBAY to help the Post raise funds for general operations. Earl can be reached at 425-778-4925 if you have any questions or need to drop items off with him.

**Picnic Planned for September**

We have reserved a shelter at the Edmonds City Park for September 26th at noon. This will be a social get together and not in lieu of our September meeting. Hopefully, we can have a good turnout—maybe roast a few hotdogs or hamburgers, perhaps even throw a fillet of salmon on the BBQ. If it's raining like the dickens, we can bag it or hide under the shelter. September always surprises me—generally the weather is pretty good with severe clear and VFR flying conditions for you pilots. We will send out an email and perhaps a few of you would be willing to bring a few of the condiments, etc. We would like to invite the American Legion and VFW Post 1040 to join us. In any event, we will keep you up to date and let you know additional specifics via email (or snail mail for you throwbacks). Hopefully this will be a fun event and remember, no one from the Senior Center will be on our case to hold down the noise.

**Plan to Visit Seattle Nisei Vets**

Buck Weaver is proposing a bus trip down to Seattle to visit the local Nisei Veterans Club. This organization is made up primarily of 442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans, a highly decorated unit that served in Italy in WWII. Other members served with Merrill's Marauders in the South Pacific. They have a museum and a memorial in Seattle so a trip down there could be highly educational—particularly to the “younger” veterans. Buck will keep us apprised of the specific plans.

**New Members**

It was nice to see our newer members. Peter Sessum, Kyle Burns, and Tim Lovitt, all Gulf War or Iraq/Afghanistan vets, and John Bush, a submariner and a friend of our own submariner, Erv Schmidt. Make sure you reach out to these guys and make them feel like home. It's been exciting to not only have the new members attend, but also to get involved in the Post activities.

**Relief Fund Budget**

Quartermaster Liz has put together a history of the expenditures from the relief fund over the last 10 years. As you remember from the last meeting (or you can read it in the attached minutes), it was suggested that we review these expenditures to determine a budget for the current year for the relief fund. An analysis of this will be presented at the Post's September meeting where a complete summary will be provided. There is currently \$4,622 in the fund. Give it some thought and plan on discussing it at the next meeting.

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Individual Veteran Ass't	1,050	984	1,430	4,850
Retsil	1,000	2,000	3,000	
Orting	1,000	1,000	2,500	
Edmonds Police Foundation	600	500	500	500
Essay Awards	113	200	100	355
USO			500	200
VFW Nat'l Home	500			
Operation Uplink	100		500	
Others	1,233	3,470	1,968	2,054



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## And Now a Word from Our Advertisers

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## 2008 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

A Pentagon ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2008. This ceremony will feature troops from each of the military services. The president will issue a proclamation commemorating the observances and reminding the nation of those Americans who have sacrificed so much for their country. Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the White House.

## The Last Word

Summer sure flew by. Your editor spent a great deal of it throwing flies at fish with mixed success. From being snowed on in June at Lake Conconully to 115 degrees on the Deschutes River a couple of weeks ago, it was a heck of an odd year. We have scheduled our first ever BBQ in the park for September. Initially, it was to be held in August but got postponed. In retrospect, it was probably a good move due to the 3 inches of rain recorded at Seatac and probably a heck of a lot more here in the convergence zone. In November, Buck is attempting to put together a trip to visit the Nisei Veterans club in Seattle. These veterans have a story to share with us so hopefully we will have a great turnout for that event. Somewhere in the Fall, a trip to Retsil will be made. These are all opportunities to meet our own members and have an opportunity for fellowship with other veterans. We hope a lot of us will take the opportunity to participate in at least one outing. In the meantime, hopefully everyone will make it to the Post meetings. And finally, Remember 9/11 and the young troopers out there on the line.

**VFW Post 8870 Minutes from August 8, 2008 Meeting**

The meeting began in proper order at 1235 with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America" led by Buck Weaver. There were 23 members in attendance including resident guest Charlie Estes from the Spokane chapter of the VFW. Erv Schmidt introduced new member John Bush, a fellow submariner and a member of the Submarine Veterans of America. Peter Sessum introduced Kyle Berns, a Marine veteran who will be joining the post as soon as his documentation is received from the Marine Corps. Peter also introduced new member Timm Lovitt, an Army veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The charter was draped in memory of Warren Schweppe and Ed McAvoy, followed by a moment of silence. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee absent. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as published. The Quartermaster's report was approved as read. It was reported that John Steed was in hospital with pneumonia, transferred to a nursing home, and is expected to return home soon. John is 86 years old and an annual participant in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, riding in a convertible in his Army uniform and helmet.

Americanism Chairman Buck Weaver passed around a newsletter from the Nisei Veterans Committee and recommended that members of the post pay the facility a visit in downtown Seattle. Duane Pounds will see if the Senior Center bus will be available for a trip in late October or early November.

Al Boyett gave the Hospital and Committee Services reports.

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks suggested that the post consider doing 3 hour shifts instead of 2 so that more markets could be covered, including the new one opening across from QFC. The dates for the Buddy Poppy drive will be Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Rock Roth reported on Edmonds Night Out sponsored by the Edmonds Police Foundation held on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 1700 – 2000 hours. In addition to Rock Roth, the table was manned by Fred Apgar and Les Able and was shared with the American Legion Post 66. Available for the public was information on "The Story of the Poppy", information on the Voice of Democracy essay contest, and applications for membership in the VFW and the American Legion. Rock's assessment is that if the post is to participate next year that we have appropriate handouts such as small flags and information on flag etiquette. Rock also suggested that the post evaluate our involvement next year and decide if the investment, both financial and in personnel, is worth the limited exposure to the public that the event generated.

Smokey Point Rest Stop Chairman John Casapiedra reported that donations were received from 5 stores and the needed supplies were well covered. Phil Sacks noted that Dan Hartman, manager of QFC, donated \$200, or nearly 90% of what was needed. Jim Adams covered the final shift assignments, information on manning the kiosk, and directions to Smokey Point.

Ebay Chairman Earl Prebesac reported that he received only one inquiry and that he is still asking for collectibles to be offered on ebay. He approached the Ladies Auxiliary about their involvement in the project. They said any revenue that he would produce would go to them.

Jim Harkness volunteered to take on the responsibilities of the Adjutant/Quartermaster at the October meeting in the absence of the Quartermaster.

Les Abel reported that the American Legion is sponsoring a ceremony on August 19<sup>th</sup> being held at Forest Park in Everett from 10 am to 12 pm for troops from the area who are being deployed overseas. Volunteers to help at the ceremony were requested, as well as donations. A motion to contribute \$100 was made, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Jim Harkness made a motion to donate \$200 to the Disabled American Veterans in Snohomish. Jim Traner recommended that the motion be put in abeyance until the board has time to set out a Relief Fund budget. Past donations made by the post will be reviewed and the list presented to the membership for discussion so that an orderly donation budget can be made for the year which will also ensure adequate funds be set aside for donations requests not budgeted that come up during the year. Rock Roth suggested that the board propose an objective for the year to the membership and with its approval, concentrate its efforts and expenditures, both financial and personnel to that particular cause. Jim Harkness revoked his motion given that the DAV would be considered in the planned budget. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Duane Pounds won the raffle and donated the proceeds to the post. He especially thanked the "new guys" for coming to the meeting, especially as one of them drew his winning ticket.

Chaplain Ed Gray led the post in the closing prayer and the meeting closed with a flag salute.