



## VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA

www.vfw8870.org

Jim Traner, Editor

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Volume 3

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

### Calendar 2009-2010

November 1st	Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy Essays Deadline Police, Firefighter, & EMT of the year deadline Teacher of the Year Deadline
November 5th	Boots to Books Dedication at ECC. Salute to America Concert at the Edmonds Center for the Arts
November 6th-7th	Veteran's Day Poppy Fundraiser
November 11th	U of W Medal of Honor Dedication
January 9th, 2010	District I Conference—Post 8870 will host
March 1st	Scout of the Year Scholarship Application
March 6, 2010	District I Conference—Noon- Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 1st, 2010	District I Convention—Noon- Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
June 24th-25th	State Convention—Vancouver, WA

### Volunteers Needed

Ok—I know I know. Never volunteer for anything. However, we are really busy right now and need some guys to step up. First, we have the Buddy Poppy program on November 6th and 7th and we really need the help out there if we are to be successful in our fund raising. But more importantly, we need to have a presence in the community and being out there with your VFW hats on and meeting the folks is just as important as the donations. Contact Bob Crawford at 206-909-4893 to give us a hand. Second, we have a number of requests to attend Veterans Day Ceremonies at local schools. If you want the kids to see and listen to some excellent school assemblies and represent veterans, then contact Rock Roth at 206-356-8869. Finally, there is a dedication at the U of W on November 11th for the Medal of Honors Memorial (see the article following). There will be a very short parade (several hundred yards) and we have been asked to be there. We would like to have a good showing as there will be a lot of media coverage of this event as 8-12 Medal of Honor recipients will be there. Please contact Jim Traner at 425-640-8650 if you can attend. All of these events are important to show the world out there that we are still in the saddle doing what we can to promote freedom. Please don't be bashful about attending these important events.

### Medal of Honor Dedication

Our Post has been invited in to participate in the dedication of a monument at the U of W recognizing Medal of Honor recipients. Buck Weaver has attempted to contact a lot of you as has our Quartermaster but if you haven't been contacted, please contact Jim Traner (number above). We will meet at the Senior Center at 8:45 and car pool down to the U of W. I suspect there will be a number of dignitaries attending the function and we will carry our Post flag (Joe Flanik has volunteered to do the honors). This is a great way to celebrate Veterans Day if you can spare the morning.

### Salute to America Concert

Duane Pounds, John Casapiedra, Fred Apgar and myself will be attending the Salute to America Concert at the Edmonds Center for the Arts at 7:30PM on 11/5. Our big role will be to wave the appropriate flag (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corp) when the service song is played. Hopefully, a bunch of you will attend and give us moral support or attend to heckle us. All kidding aside, this is an excellent program so we hope to see you.

### Upcoming Speakers

November 13, 2009	Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Winners
December 11, 2009	Holiday musical entertainment

### Vets Club to Dedicate Memorial



Post member & Club Vet president Troy Montgomery gave us an update on the From Boot to Books Memorial dedication which will be held on November 5th at 1pm on the ECC campus. Head for the middle of the buildings and you will see the crowd gathering. Every member of our Post should try to make this important event as a number of the college vets are members of our Post and our Post has presented \$750 to the College Vets Club to assist them in their fund raising efforts. As always, parking can be a challenge so if you would like to car pool to the event, let me know by calling me at 425-640-8650 or emailing me at jtr-ner@tranersmith.com.



### Eagle Scout Asks for Assistance

David Klingman made a presentation to the group requesting assistance from our Post in his community project—the restoration of trails in the Veterans Park in Mount Lake Terrace. His request is being reviewed by our committee which evaluates these projects and we will have their conclusion presented at the Board Meeting on November 10th.

### October Meeting Discussed MIA's

Our speaker unfortunately had to cancel due to health issues. However, while at the National Convention in Phoenix in August, I was given a DVD from a Sgt. assigned to a unit in Hawaii which is in charge of recovery and identification of MIA's. Fred Apgar had previewed it and said it was excellent and he was 100% correct. Without going into all the details of the DVD, I think the most important thing mentioned in the program was how amazed people are in remote areas where these remains are recovered. They are in disbelief that a government would go to such lengths and costs in recovering the remains of a single US casualty. However, there is a commitment on the part of the military to bring everyone home. While this goal will never be met, the fact that we have this goal speaks highly of our dedication to the individual service member.

### Need A Lift?

If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email at [quartermaster@VFW8870.org](mailto:quartermaster@VFW8870.org). 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.

### New VFW Logo

The new logo on the newsletter this month came down from the powers in National. In the future, all publications from the VFW, whether National or at the Post level, will be “branded” with the new format. Actually, I think it looks pretty spiffy—once I figured out how to download it and transfer it into the newsletter. Hopefully, we will have someone else in charge of the newsletter the next time they decide to change the logo.

### Post Commander Speaks to the Vets Club

Taking off my hat as editor and writing as Post Commander, I attended this year's first College Vets Club meeting at Edmonds Community College. It was raining about as hard as it can rain in the Northwest when I made my run to the meeting hall. For a guy that is a steelhead fisherman, I almost wimped out as I sat in my car and listened to what sounded like drums being played on my car roof before I got the nerve to make my run. After surviving my sprint (ok—slow jog) I was greeted by Troy Montgomery along with 2 other members of our Post who are also members of the College Vets. In a nutshell, I spoke about the importance of veterans supporting veterans—through a number of ways including joining the VFW. As I pointed out, I haven't seen a “civilian” yet that really looked out for veterans to the degree that other veterans do. I also pointed out that I would like to see more female veterans participate in veterans organizations and urged them to reach out to those women veterans on campus about joining the Vets Club and VFW or American Legion or both. Finally, I pointed out that all the members of Post 8870 would love to meet and know the younger veterans. We have guys who served in the same unit—only 60 years apart. That can make for some very interesting stories and comradeship.

### Chaplain Ed Gray Honored by District One Commander Elmer Johnson

Chaplain Gray receives a cross from Commander Johnson. Ed is the District 1 chaplain this year as well as Post 8870's chaplain. The cross is from the National Chaplain of the VFW.



**Minutes from the October 9, 2009 Meeting**

Twenty-eight members assembled for the monthly post meeting. Commander Jim Traner introduced guest District One Commander Elmer Johnson.

In lieu of the scheduled speaker who was unable to attend because of his hospitalization, a video was shown on the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command stationed at Hickam Field in Hawaii who do the research to recover the remains of servicemen missing in action.

Fred Apgar introduced Life Scout David Killingman II from Troop 49 who is working on his project to qualify for Eagle Scout – the upgrading and beautification of the trail behind the Veterans Memorial Park to bring it to the point where it is a safe and desirable trail for everyone to use. David asked the post for a donation of between \$50 and \$75. His request was referred to the Budget Committee for consideration.

Commander Jim Traner then opened Post 8870 for the transaction of business. Chaplain Ed Gray led the post in the opening prayer, which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of “My Country ‘Tis of Thee”. Chaplain Ed Gray said a prayer for the POW/MIA’s while the vacant chair set aside for them was covered.

The meeting was then opened for the transaction of business. The roll call of officers found the Service Officer, Officer of the Day, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee absent. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. The Quartermaster’s Report for the month of September 2009 had been reviewed and accepted by the trustees. A motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Bob Crawford as Trustee Pro Tem in the absence of the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee at the board meeting.

The Service Officer was absent. There were no comrades or a family of a comrade in distress. Surgeon Al Boyett presented the Hospital and Community Service Reports for the month of September. Phil Sacks was assigned the responsibility of contacting the Department of Transportation to reserve a rest stop fund raising weekend for next year. The application deadline is November 4<sup>th</sup>.

At the request of Buddy Poppy Chairman Bob Crawford, members volunteered for some of the remaining shifts for the Memorial Day weekend. An email will be sent out to all members requesting further volunteers and backups for those doing all day duty. The committee will look into the possibility of purchasing better tables than those being used at present.

Rock Roth, Veterans Day School Speaker Chairman encouraged members to sign up to speak or make themselves available during Veterans Day week at the various schools in the area.

The American Legion will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The District meeting scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. There were no further committee reports, other business or items to be discussed for the good of the order.

District One Commander Elmer Johnson presented Chaplain Ed Gray with a lapel pin in the form of a cross that he obtained for him at the National Convention. Chaplain Ed Grey is now also serving as District One Chaplain.

Buck Weaver reported on the trip that members of the post took to the Veterans Museum in Chehalis and recommended that this outstanding facility be on the “must see” list for visitors to the area.

Freedom Team Salute Commendations and pins were presented to those Army veterans who were absent at last month’s meeting: Fred Diedrich, Jim Harkness, Phil Sacks and Buck Weaver.

Commander Jim Traner reported on the invitation that was made to the post to join in the parade for the Medal of Honor Memorial Dedication and Veterans Day Celebration which is to be held at the University of Washington on November 11<sup>th</sup> and urged members to join him on that day. Carpooling will be available from the Senior Center.

Tim Lovitt will work with the post on an Adopt-A-Unit program to possibly send letters from students in the area to units stationed overseas that are somewhat “out of the loop” and would appreciate personal contact from home.

Troy Montgomery, President of the Veterans Club at Edmonds Community College, showed a video on the progress made to date on the ECC Veterans Monument “From Boots to Books” to be erected on campus. The monument dedication is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> and invitations were presented to the post. The post had previously made a commitment to donate \$750 to the project provided that half of the cost of the monument was obtained from other sources. As that goal was achieved, the post presented a check in that amount for the monument.

Historian Leroy Middleton presented his trivia question to the post. Fred Apgar won the raffle drawing and returned his half of the \$33 collected to the post with the stipulation that the money be used to buy a new table for the Poppy drive. Morgan Dotson also donated \$40 for the purchase of another table.

Acting Officer of the Day Buck Weaver retired the POW/MIA chair cover, Chaplain Ed Gray led the post in the closing prayer, the flag was retired and the business meeting of Post 8870 was declared closed. The next monthly post meeting will be held on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1230. There will be a board meeting at Jim Traner’s office on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 0930, preceded by a Trustees’ meeting at 0900.

Phone 425-670-8912

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**The Last Word**

November is a very busy month between poppies, schools wanting veterans for speakers or as attendees to assemblies, memorial dedications, etc. The good news is that veterans causes are in the forefront of the public's attention during this month as well. Hopefully everyone will be involved with some aspect of the Post's activities during this month. If you haven't been involved in the past, now is the time to do it. It is encouraging to have the public schools honoring veterans and recognizing veterans' contributions to preserving the freedoms we enjoy.

Poppy fund raising is always an interesting proposition as well. You meet some fascinating people, get a lot of thanks from folks, blank stares from others trying to figure out why grown men (and women) are giving away flowers to strangers, and, all in all, we have a fairly good time while raising much needed funds for our relief fund.

On top of everything else, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and for some of us, there are steelhead in the river. It's going to be a very busy month.

And, last but not least, I ordered four engraved bricks for the Veterans Park in Lynnwood from Post 1040 in honor of my parents, both WWII veterans, and my brother and myself, both Vietnam veterans. Frank Martinez from 1040 called me and said they were laying them last Saturday. I haven't had a time to get over and check them out yet, but I will make sure I get a picture of them for my parents. If you're interested, I have applications that Frank gave me. Each brick is \$25.