

Upcoming Events Calendar 2010-11

Please take time to review the calendar and if there are additions that are necessary, please contact the Quartermaster at quartermaster@vfw8870.org or call Elizabeth Mather at 425-672-0279.

November 1st	Teacher of the Year Nominations, Voice of Democracy, & Patriot's Pen entries due to Post
November 2nd	Board Meeting—Traner's office—110 James St., Edmonds, WA (0915 hrs.)
November 5th-6th	Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser—See Bob Crawford for details
November 11th	Veterans Day—attend various school assemblies and classrooms (contact Fred Apgar)
November 12th	Post Meeting—South Snohomish Senior Center—Lunch 11:30; Meeting 12:30 (Post Inspection)
November 13th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
January 1st	Public Servant Nominations Due—Police, Fire, and EMT personnel
January 8th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
January 21st-22nd	Mid-Winter Convention—Yakima
March 1st	Scout of the Year entries due to Post
March 12th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 14th	District I meeting at 12:00PM—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 27th-28th	Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Fund Raiser—See Bob Crawford for details
May 31st	Memorial Day Ceremonies—Edmonds Cemetery
June 22nd - 25th	State Convention—Yakima

Up-Coming Speakers

November: Recognition of the Elementary Teacher of the Year; Presentation to Dan Hartman—QFC; Recognition of Mike Reagan's Fallen Heroes Project.

Mike Reagan Featured in VFW Magazine

Not only did the October issue of the national publication do a nice article on Mike's Fallen Hero Project, his portraits were featured on the front cover. If you missed it, you can go to www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Magazine. Our Post fully supports this project and Mike will be at the November meeting to receive a donation from our Post. I would hope as many of you as possible can make the meeting.

Washington National Guard—Funeral Services



Sgt. Ken Cowen and Sgt Nicholas Holmes are shown above with Commander Jim Traner. Sgt. Holmes provided some much need information to our Post regarding honor guard services provided to veterans' funerals. The major point they made is for you to contact your funeral home and provide them with the necessary proof that you are a veteran and you wish to have an honor guard. They will then contact the appropriate folks at the National Guard when (not if) the time comes for your funeral. This also takes the burden off your family to find your DD-214 and make the arrangements.

Post Visits Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee Hall



If you didn't make the trip down to the NVC Hall, you missed a special event. A number of us did make it down there and had a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable day. Frank Suhara was our host and Buck Weaver organized it. The picture above is taken in their museum room which is filled with interesting memorabilia primarily from WWII but also Korea and Vietnam. Below is the Hall of Honor. 21 of the plaques are for Medal of Honor recipients.



The NVC was comprised primarily of veterans from the 442nd Combat Regiment Team and the MIS (Military Intelligence Service). The latter were the 8,000 Japanese Americans who served in the Pacific and provided interpreter services, interrogation of prisoners, etc. The 442nd which served in France and Italy is the most highly decorated unit in US military history.

Veterans Day Speakers Needed

The email below was received from Rock Roth. Rock will be out of town so if you are interested in helping out, please let Fred Apgar know as he is organizing speakers.

“The only members that I've heard from either directly or indirectly this year are Jim Traner, Morgan Dotson, Phil Sacks, and Peter Sessum. Peter's availability due to school commitments is limited. Last year Jim Adams, Al Boyett, Les Abel, John Casapiedra, Jim Harkness, Dexter Miller, Earl Prebezac, Duane Pounds, Buck Weaver, Bob Crawford, Erv Schmidt, volunteered.”

Signed by Rock Roth, Senior Vice Commander

Again, these school events are a great way to educate students on the history of our country that you helped write. So please make time to go out and speak to the students. You'll enjoy it as will the students. I want to particularly invite our younger vets who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan to attend with some of the older vets. I think it will leave a lasting impression on some of these young people.

Salute to America Concert

The Sno-King Community Chorale will perform its fifth annual Salute to America concert Thursday, November 11th, 7:30 p.m. at Edmonds Center for the Arts, 410—4th Avenue North, Edmonds. A special musical tribute will be presented to several veterans, who will be guests of honor at this year's patriotic concert. As each service's song is played, members of our Post will enter the hall with the appropriate flag and veterans of that service will be asked to stand. Tickets are \$15 for seniors. I would hope a number of us will make it and sit together. Wear your hats.

VFW Website—VFW8870.org

If you haven't visited the national VFW website, you should. From the guy who is responsible for our website, they are a lot of work. That's why I was impressed with National's. It has recently been upgraded and is much more reader friendly. The first page is directed at the younger vets. So take a spin around it, I think you will find it interesting.

Phone 425-670-8912

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The Last Word

When I returned from a recent fishing trip, the message light on my phone was blinking. A number I didn't recognize showed up on caller ID so I figured it was just another of the hundred phone calls from the political candidates. I listened to the message anyway and, much to my surprise, one of the guys I had served with in Vietnam had called me. It had been 41 years or so since we had last spoken but we started up like it had been yesterday. He had been talking to his wife about our group and she told him to Google my name. Low and behold, I turned up on his search and he gave me a call. I just had my 45th high school reunion a few weeks earlier. A lot of the folks I graduated with had been classmates of mine since we were in kindergarten. As much as I liked all my old classmates, none had shared the experiences that Donny and I had gone through during our year in Vietnam. We didn't speak about the bad times, just about the good times, the bbq's and beer after weeks (or months) in the field, and the guys we knew back then, wondering what had happened to them. It was good to hear his voice after all these years.