



## VFW Post 8870

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

Duane Pounds,  
Commander

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### Buddy Poppy Fundraiser



**Poppy Chair Phil Sacks with Rock Roth at the QFC store on Friday Morning.**

Phil Sacks (pictured with Rock Roth) did another admiral job of organizing the Buddy Poppy fundraiser. Like everything else that's done in an all-volunteer organization, Phil contacted the stores, ordered the poppies, got the volunteers in the right places at the right times, and then managed to swing by and make sure everyone and everything was under control. Of course, when he got to QFC where Rock and I were on duty, I was chasing pamphlets and poppies all over the parking lot where one of the 30 knot wind gusts we were subjected to on Friday morning had taken them. All in all, it seemed to go well. It always goes well when your replacements show up 15 minutes early (thanks Richard & Rene). For those of you who couldn't volunteer this year for health or other reasons, the fundraiser was in good hands with Phil Sacks in charge. I, for one, nominate him to be the lifetime leader of these fundraisers. All those in favor, raise your hands, quickly, before you get put in charge.

At the November meeting it was announced that contributions were \$1,986.51. Several members quickly added to the fund so that the total exceeded \$2,000.00. It should be noted that contributions were approximately \$1,000 less than in prior years. Several issues caused the decline and Phil is looking into ways to improve collections in future years. The good news is that between Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the total amount raised was over \$6,000 allowing the Post to continue to assist veterans in need.

### Serene Lake Elementary Students Thank Vets at the VA Hospital



1st & 5th graders at Serene Lake Elementary School made cards and a thank you letter for the veterans at the VA Hospital. Your editor's wife Terry Traner, a first grade teacher, and Julie Bivens, a fifth grade teacher, combined their classes with the older kids helping the younger ones on the project. When the cards were completed, a poster board was made (see picture) together with class pictures of the boys and girls and listing the principle (Dr. Karen Reid), the teachers' names, and the fact that Post 8870 sponsored the project. OK—we didn't exactly sponsor it, but since I'm married to the teacher and I delivered it to the VA hospital we took credit for it. I did place it in a prominent spot thanks to the fact that I couldn't find anyone at the hospital to help me. As I left, I observed the first guy to pass it immediately stopped and began reading the letter and cards so I suspected it would be noticed where it was. Little did I suspect that Dr. Reid would get a call several days later from a volunteer at the hospital saying how popular the display was being received. She said that many of the patients left with tears in their eyes over the fact that the kids had remembered them. A nice tribute to the students and teachers involved. The classes are going to adopt a ward for the year.



## **Minutes From the November 16, 2007 Meeting (unapproved) from Quartermaster Liz Mather**

VFW POST 8870 MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2007

The meeting began in proper order at 1245 with Les Abel reading the opening prayer, the pledge of allegiance, flag salute and the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" led by Buck Weaver. There were 21 members in attendance. Bob Crawford introduced guest Marine Sergeant Major Bob Withey, a potential member of the post. An application for membership was received from Donald Hull, and will be reviewed at the next post meeting. The roll call of officers found the Senior Vice Commander and Chaplain absent.

A motion was made to drape the charter in memory of Howard Hoag, Don Morgan and Merrill Younkin who died within the last year. Les Abel acted as Officer of the Day for the ceremony.

Poppy Chair Assistant Bob Crawford reported that the total take for the Veterans' Day Buddy Poppy Program was \$1986.51, just short of \$2,000, and suggested donations be made to make up the difference. Members readily complied. Bob also stated that two volunteers stayed at Safeway until 5:30 on Friday and reported brisk donations during that later time. Bob suggested changing the shifts in the future to start later in the morning in order to be there when shoppers come into the stores after work and before dinner.

The minutes of the October meeting and the Quartermaster's report for the month of October were approved as read.

Jim Traner reported that the "thank you" cards his wife's first grade made to honor and thank veterans on Veterans Day were a big success. They were mounted on a poster board that Jim took down to the Veterans Hospital and placed where they could be seen and enjoyed.

Voice of Democracy Chair Dexter Miller reported that there were 5 Voice of Democracy essay entries, and 11 Patriot's Pen. The winning essays were submitted to District One before the cut off date.

Buck Weaver will take charge of the 4 x 9 American flag that was given to the post by Jim and Dorothy Harkness and will find the appropriate place for it to be donated and flown.

Commander Pounds once again reminded the unpaid members to get their annual dues into National as soon as possible so that the post can achieve 100% in membership.

The Quartermaster reported that letters mailed to 140 members of the post requesting donations be made to the General Operating Fund resulted in \$1,055 received to date. Newsletters were included in the letters to members not on the email listing. There were no further requests for mailing or emailing newsletters.

Charlie Estes won the raffle and went home \$8 richer.

Service Officer Roosevelt Ward reported that in August he was asked by the Commander to report on the speaker, a local financial advisor, who gave a talk to the post on the Aid and Attendance Program. Misunderstanding of his report resulted in a letter from an attorney stating he slandered the speaker's name and owes him an apology. Roosevelt stressed that he did not use the speaker's name in his report, only the company's. Any information he gives out at VFW meetings comes directly from VFW personnel. The same information can be obtained directly by members. He is not going to make an apology because information he gives out at meetings can be had by anyone by contacting the I.G. office in the Federal Building. That office received complaints from two homes in the Seattle area against the company for some improprieties. His role as Service Officer is only to advise of the pros and cons of programs for veterans. He makes no recommendations.

A motion was made to donate 10 food certificates of \$50 each to needy veterans and families in the area. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

A motion was made to donate \$200 to the USO. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

The meeting closed with Dexter Miller delivering the closing prayer and a hand salute.



**Additional Pictures of Buddy Poppy Workers Courtesy of Phil Sacks**





**Additional Pictures of Buddy Poppy Workers (continued)**





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**MEETING DATES**

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 Last Say**



The picture accompanying this article is your editor eating a Thanksgiving dinner 40 years ago in Vietnam. I had only been in-country a few months (my jungle fatigues were still green). A hot meal was flown into us and just after this picture was taken some Colonel flew in to wish us a happy Thanksgiving and his chopter coated all our food with dirt. I remember that it was a very gritty meal but, still, a damn good one. But this is just a reminder picture that a lot of kids are still in the "bush" somewhere a long way from home. We wish them the best this holiday season and God speed them safely back to their families.