



**VFW Post 8870 and  
Ladies Auxiliary  
Edmonds, WA  
www.vfw8870.org**



### Upcoming Events Calendar

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

December 11th	Staff Meeting—Traner’s Office 09:15 AM
December 14th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM—Meeting 12:30 PM
December 15th	Christmas Party—Senior Center 1PM-3PM
January 5th	District Meeting– Alderwood Boys & Girls Club– Award Ceremony for Youth Essay Contests & Teacher Awards
January 19th	Midwinter Convention—Yakima
March 1st	Deadline—Scout of the Year Award
March 30th	District Meeting-Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
May 18th	District Convention—Alderwood Boys & Girls Club
June 6th—8th	Department Convention—Yakima
July 20th-24th	National Convention—Louisville, KY

### Veterans Day Poppy Drive

The Relief Fund collection broke another record with over \$11,500 collected in two days at 5 stores. Bob Crawford has done a great job organizing the volunteers and making sure it runs smoothly. I am amazed at the comments from folks saying they haven’t seen a Poppy in years. They must live somewhere other than Edmonds or Mukilteo. It was colder than normal but at least it didn’t rain. Plan on helping out Memorial Day weekend. A 4 hour shift won’t kill you (I promise good weather) and it will spread the work out.

### Joint Legion VFW Christmas Party

On December 15th, the American Legion Post 66 and our Post will be hosting a potluck dinner at the Senior Center (second floor). Turkey and ham will be provided by the Posts and a signup sheet for side dishes, deserts, etc. have been passed around in the November meeting. We request that you bring a new unwrapped toy and nonperishable or can goods for the food bank. Beverages will also be provided by the Posts. Families, grandchildren, and extended families are invited to participate.

### District I Raffle

The District will be raffling a 48” HDTV to support the District’s effort in assisting Posts in membership drives, providing awards for District winners of the Youth Essays, Patriot’s Pen, and Voice of Democracy as well as Teacher and Safety Officer awards. The tickets are \$5.00 each and the drawing will be held January 31st at the Everett Post’s meeting. That will give you a couple of days to get your new TV set up to watch the Super Bowl on February 3rd.

### Pearl Harbor Day– Naval Station

The Navy is holding a Remembrance Day Ceremony on December 7th at 10:30AM. They are asking that anyone with Pearl Harbor memorabilia who would like to lend it the Navy for the day contact Troy Schulz at [troy.schulz@navy.mil](mailto:troy.schulz@navy.mil). In addition, anyone who would like to attend and does not have access to the base or been approved previously, submit your full name, birth date and driver’s license number/state. In any event, please RSVP Troy at the email address above or call him at 425-304-3357. After the ceremony, lunch will be served in the All American café at a cost of \$6.95/person. Having eaten there, I can say it is a heck of a deal. Our own Erv Schmidt is a Pearl Harbor survivor who lost ship-mates that day and will be the speaker. We hope to see you there.

## New Members



James Cox, who is a native of Beaverton, Oregon, retired from the Air Force as a Major. He was a navigator, assigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC). For most of his career, he flew on KC-135's on aerial refueling missions. James served a combat tour in Southeast Asia, flying out of U Tapao and Tahkli Royal Thai Air Bases in Thailand. While his primary mission was refueling B-52's, his Wing supported all Air Force operations in Laos. He and his wife, Sally, reside in Edmonds. They have five adult children and are the proud grandparents of two grandchildren.



Dan A. White is a Seattle (and Doe Bay, WA) native. He joined the Army in 1946 and was part of occupation forces in Korea. After he completed Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Ft Sill, OK and Airborne School, he served again in Korea. He became part of the Army Reserve in 1953 and retired as a Colonel in 1989. Awards include a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. Dan received degrees from Western Washington Univ and the UW. He was a teacher and college administrator. He and wife Shirley live in Edmonds. They have 4 sons.



Darren Blanchard joined the Army in 1987 while living in Maine. He was a Heavy Equipment Operator. He served in Desert Shield. Awards include the Army Achievement and Good Conduct Medals. He resides in Edmonds.

### **Amos Chapman (no photo)**

Amos grew up in Toppenish, WA but also lived in Seattle and graduated from Franklin HS. He joined the US Navy in May, 1943, just a couple months before turning 18. He served aboard the USS Killen (DD-593) in the Pacific as a Fire Controller. The Killen was a new destroyer built in Bremerton. It provided convoy escort, shore bombardment and anti-aircraft screen. The Killen was attacked by 9 Japanese Aircraft off of Leyte and was heavily damaged by a bomb, killing 15 crewmen, including the Captain. Amos resides in Edmonds. Amos retired from the US Postal Service Seattle. He has 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

### **Mark Williams (no photo)**

Mark is a Life Member and Marine transferring from Mercer Island Post 5760. Mark is a Seattle native. He's a retired USMC Major, having served 1966-86. He had two tours in Vietnam flying both fixed-wing and a Cobra gunship. Decorations include Navy Commendation with Combat V and 16 Air Medals. He has degrees from UW and USC. He is active in the A-4 Skyhawk Association. He and wife Jacqueline reside in Edmonds.

## **Chaplain's Corner—Rock Roth**

Many of us had the very great privilege of speaking to students in the Edmonds, Mukilteo, and Seattle School Districts at Veterans Day Assemblies. I for one was very encouraged by what I witnessed – the schools were actually teaching students patriotism and the important role played by our military in protecting our way of life. We as members of the VFW were able to inform students (and equally important faculty and staff) that liberty and freedom are not free. That with freedom also comes responsibility. If we fail to “provide for the common defense”, America, as we know it, cannot long exist.

As I participated in a number of very well organized and orchestrated assemblies, I found one thing missing – prayer and a forum to express thanks to Almighty God for the freedom we enjoy. Our Founding Father specifically recognized our “Creator”, “Divine Providence”, “Nature’s God”, and “Supreme Judge of the World”. However, in our schools and in the education of our youth, any reference to or mention of God has been prohibited! Why? As your Chaplain, I question the wisdom of trying to make America a secular society. We are to enjoy freedom of religion not freedom from religion. I found the teachers encountered during Veterans Day Assemblies thoroughly outstanding. I do question, however, the ever increasing responsibility we place on them! The following is an email I received which states my views. (I would give the author credit, if I knew who he or she was!)

**NOMINATED FOR "BEST EMAIL OF THE YEAR 2012"**

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said: 'Let me see if I've got this right. You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning. You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self-esteem and personal pride. You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job. You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of anti-social behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams. You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card. You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps. You want me to do all this, and then you tell me. . . I CAN'T PRAY?'

### **District Meeting—January 5th**

Just a note to mark your calendars for the 5th of January when the District meeting will recognize the various student essay winners and teachers of the year. Our Post will be co-hosting the meeting with Post 1040 and we will need members at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club by 11:00AM to set up for the meeting and to tear down afterwards. Since the next newsletter won't hit your doorstep before the 2nd of January, this gives you plenty of time to plan on attending the meeting. For you old timers who have attended this in the past, please be advised we will begin the awards ceremony during lunch (approximately 12:30) and have a short District meeting following the award ceremony. This should expedite the meeting.

### **Helping the Post by Paying your Dues**

This is a blatant plea for everyone who is a continuous member to pay their dues. Dues are \$25 for a year and while you are not officially delinquent (and no longer a VFW member) until the end of the year, you would make life much easier on Quartermaster Tom and Commander Fred if you would drop a check in the mail. If you are unable to pay your dues due to financial difficulty, let the QM know and we will make allowances for your circumstances. Also, students and active duty members of the military are exempt from dues.

## Veterans in the Classroom

We had a lot of folks in a lot of schools during the weeks before and after November 11th. I think the unanimous consensus is the we got more out of it than the kids did. Anyone who says patriotism is dead in the public schools hasn't visited a school in the Edmonds or Mukilteo school districts. Anyone who visited schools in those districts can confirm it is alive and well from the administration, the staff, to the students. Each year I walk away with the feeling that our country will be left in good hands when the next generation comes of age.

## President's Corner

Missing in action this month.

## The Last Word—Commander's Column

Now that Thanksgiving is over, the countdown for the number of shopping days left until Christmas is well on its way. It is wonderful to experience the excitement surrounding the holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's, and it provides us with a great opportunity to celebrate with family and friends. Before Thanksgiving becomes too much of a memory, however, I hope that the upcoming holiday season will also be a time when we reflect on the many wonderful blessings and gifts that we have been given and look for ways in which we can increase our giving to others.

Thanks to the efforts of Bob Crawford and Jim McCann who organized our Veterans' Day Buddy Poppy distribution, our Post collected a record amount of donations from a very generous Edmonds community. At last count, over \$11,500 has been deposited into the Post relief fund. Our thanks go out to each member who volunteered their time to stand out in the cold to greet the public and place a Poppy in their hands.

Several years ago, the Relief Fund Committee made a concerted effort identify local area veterans and active duty personnel who needed assistance. I am delighted to report that our successful Buddy Poppy fund raising effort has permitted the Post to increase our assistance at the local level as well as permitting us to continue to support worthwhile nation-wide efforts. For this holiday season, VFW Post # 8870 has supported the following local area programs:

\$1000 each, in gift cards, to the residents of the Veterans Homes in Retsil and Orting;

\$500 each, in gift cards, to the Chaplain's Offices at Naval Station Everett, Joint Base Lewis McChord, and Coast Guard District 4200;

\$500 to the VA Puget Sound Health Care System for hospitalized veterans and active duty personnel;

\$1000 to Santa's Castle for gifts to children of active duty personnel in financial need;

\$1000 Sea-Tac USO; and

\$1000 to Fisher House.

Our sincerest thanks go out to all members of our Post who, through your generous support, have permitted us to make the holiday season a little brighter for those veterans and active duty personnel who are in need of assistance.

Hanukkah and Christmas Blessings to you all.

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