



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



August 2013
Vol. 9 Issue 8

Upcoming Events Calendar

Please take time to review the calendar and if there are additions that are necessary, please contact the editor at commander@vfwdistrict1.org

August 6th	Staff Meeting—Traner's Office 09:00 AM
August 9th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM—Meeting 12:30 PM
August 17th	District School of Instruction 12:00PM to 3PM VFW Night at the Aquasox game—7PM
September 7th	VSO/Forms Training, Post 91, Tacoma—9AM
September 10th	Staff Meeting—Traner's Office 09:00 AM
September 13th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM—Meeting 12:30 PM
October 8th	Staff Meeting—Traner's Office 09:00 AM
October 11th	Post Meeting – Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch 11:30 AM—Meeting 12:30 PM
November 8th-9th	Buddy Poppy Distribution
November 15th	Post Meeting—Edmonds Senior Center—Change from Second Friday to Third Friday for this meeting only.
December 10th	Staff Meeting—Traner's Office 09:00 AM
December 13th	Post Meeting— Edmonds Senior Center—Lunch at 11:30AM-Meeting at 12:30PM
January 4th	District Meeting—Alderwood Boys and Girls Club-12:00PM

National VFW Approves Dues Increase

At the recent National VFW Convention, the delegates approved a resolution to increase the amount of its annual dues by \$10.00. The increase in dues for Continuous members will go into effect on January 1, 2014. Those Post members who now pay their dues on an annual basis might want to consider paying next year's due prior to the January 1, 2014 deadline, thus saving \$10 in the process.

Continuous dues paying members might also consider becoming a Life Member of VFW, and in so doing, you will be saving a considerable amount of money in the process. Members, who are considering becoming a Life Member, can obtain more information regarding this option by going to the National VFW web site at <http://www.vfw.org/>. By clicking on the RENEW link at the top of the page, you will be able to review your membership information, make changes, renew your membership, or select the Life Membership option. The dues structure and the cost of Life Membership are related to you age:

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 and over	\$170.00	\$15.45

Questions regarding these options can be directed to our Quartermaster, Dennis Peterson (425-772-3404).

Donald F. Paris



Donald was a life-long resident of Seattle, and he died in May at the age of 90. He left high school to help support his family by working in his grandfather's donut shop. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served in the Pacific theatre of operations during WW II. Following the war, Don married his wife of 65 years, Lois. He worked in the real estate business for 40 years, eventually opening Don Paris Realty in Edmonds. In addition to being a member of VFW Post #8870, Don was a member of the Elks Club for over 60 years, he sang with the Sound Singers, and volunteered at the Edmonds Senior Center Food Bank. Surviving Don are his wife, three children (Pam, Don Jr., and Jim), 9 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Post Member Muriel Whalley Interviewed on KZOK 102.5FM

Some years ago I did an article on Muriel for the newsletter. She was recently interviewed by KZOK about her service and her trip to Washington DC on the Honor Flight. Brian Sequin of Post 1040 has been instrumental in getting our WWII comrades back to Washington and resurrecting the Puget Sound hub of Honor Flight. He recently sent me a link of Muriel's interview. You can go to <http://kzok.cbslocal.com/2013/21/muriel-whalley/> For those of you without computer access, when you get a chance to be with someone who does, have them access the video. It is about 5 minutes long and a great interview.

Chaplain's Corner—Rock Roth

Can any of us who lived during WWII forget Kate Smith singing God Bless America? Did you know that God Bless America was written by Erving Berlin in 1918 during WWI and revised in 1938 three years before we entered WWII? Did you also know that Irving Berlin was Jewish? The God in whom he believed was the Jewish God of the Torah or Old Testament. Christians believe in the same God as revealed in the New Testament – the Judeo Christian God.

"While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,

Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God bless America, land that I love

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains To the prairies,

To the ocean white with foam

God bless America, My home sweet home."

I would suggest that as a nation we need to (re) dedicate ourselves to being "One nation under God, indivisible....." I would further suggest that we are not African American, Chinese American, Vietnamese American, German American, et al. We are one and all Americans. I, as your Chaplain, pray for God's Blessing on this land, the United States of America. I pray that He stand beside us and guide us, through the night with the light from above.

May we remain one Nation Under God.

Post Website

Just a reminder that you can find this newsletter along with a ton of information at our website www.vfw8870.org. We post our Minutes from the last meeting and password protect them from unauthorized folks looking at them. If you have forgotten the password, contact the quartermaster at quartermaster@vfw8870.org and he will get it to you. Along with the minutes, you'll find contact information for the Post's officers, membership applications should you run into a prospective candidate and don't have one with you. There is also a link to order a copy of your DD-214.

Post Participates in Memorial Service



On Tuesday, July 16, members of our Post participated in a memorial service that provided military honors to deceased veterans who had not received such honors at the time of their death. Chris Edwards, who serves as our Senior Vice Commander, organized the detail which featured two more of our members, Oleg Chudak and Glenn Jones. They are all members of the 81st Combat Team of the Washington State National Guard. The ceremony was held at Edmonds Cemetery and honored a WW II veteran. Just a note to our members, if you know of someone who is a deceased veteran and did not receive a flag at their funeral, let us know if they wish to attend one of the services in the future. So many families don't realize their loved ones are eligible to receive this honor.

Edmonds Night Out



VFW Post 8870 participated in the festivities Tuesday, July 30th by presenting the colors and having a bean bag toss for the little kids and a spin the wheel (thanks to Post 1561 who lent us the wheel) for the bigger kids. It was a great way of helping in the community and letting them see VFW.



District School of Instruction

District I's School of Instruction will be held on August 17th at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club. If you are a committee chair or Officer of the Post, you are urged to attend the School. We will try to keep it informative and on point. If you are new to VFW it will be an opportunity to become familiar with the various programs the VFW sponsors. There will be a brown bag (you bring your own) lunch at noon and the School will begin at 1:00PM. Soft drinks will be provided by the District Commander, namely me.

New Members



Oleg A Chudak

Oleg is a native of Lutsk, Ukraine and enlisted in the Washington Army National Guard in 2007. He served in Iraq 2008-09 with the 161st Infantry Battalion of the 81st Brigade, primarily performing convoy security duties. He is currently a Specialist on Active Guard with the 81st BCT and performs military funeral honors in NW Washington. Awards include the Army Commendation and Army Achievement Medals. He has an Associates in Business degree and resides in Seattle.

VFW Night at the Aquasox

Ok Comrades—bring your check books or cash to the next meeting if you intend to go to the Aquasox game on August 17th. This is VFW day at the park and your family is invited to attend. Tickets are \$7 (you procrastinators missed the \$10 seats). We have a bunch of folks showing up from the other Posts in the District so it should be a fun evening. Remember, there is a fireworks show after the game so you kids or grandkids would love the opportunity to see them. Since we are running out of time, let me know if you want tickets by contacting:

commander@vfwwadistrict1.org



Glenn P Jones

Glenn is from Concrete, WA and enlisted in 2004. He served in Iraq 2008-09 with the 161st Infantry Battalion of the 81st Brigade Washington Army National Guard. He performed convoy security and security operations duties. He is currently a Sergeant on Active Guard with the 81st BCT and performs military funeral honors in NW Washington. Awards include the Army Commendation Medal. Glenn resides in Everett

Join the American Legion and Other Veteran Groups

I suspect a lot of us are already American Legion members. For those of you who are not, please consider it. In our small community, the VFW and American Legion team up in virtually all the community events from Edmonds Night Out to the 4th of July Parade. For the American Legion to thrive, it needs new blood. Their meeting takes place on the third Monday of the month at 6PM in the Senior Center's library room. Come by on June 17th and consider a membership.

Also, consider joining those veteran's organizations you may be eligible to join such as the Vietnam Veterans of America. The more voices we have representing us the better off we will be.

Korean War Armistice 60th Anniversary



On Monday, July 22, the Metropolitan King County Council sponsored a recognition ceremony commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. There were some 15 Korean War Veterans in attendance, representing the more than 55,000 Korean War veterans in Washington State.

Included were Post 8870 members Jim Adams and Jim Blossey. Chaplain Rock Roth, a Viet Nam veteran, was also in attendance. Blossey was one of four Korean War vets singled out to receive a medal from Korean Consul Song Young Wan, proclaiming them "Ambassadors for Peace."

Sponsoring King County councilmember Rod Dembowski said, "Although the war is often referred to as the 'Forgotten War,' the impact of the service of the men and women who fought is felt throughout [our area]. In part, thanks to these brave men and women's service, [we are] now home to a thriving Korean American population."

We have a number of members in addition to Jim who are veterans of the Korean War. At the next meeting, please take the time to thank those veterans for their service. They call the Korean War "The Forgotten War" but it is neither forgotten by those who served there or by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) who seeks to recover the remains of the 8,177 service members missing in action there and where it is believed that 2,000 soldiers are buried in the Korean Demilitarized Zone alone. Even though the Armistice was signed 60 years ago, this war won't end until we recover our dead and insure that the North Koreans are no longer a threat to South Korea or the US.

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The Last Word—Commander's Column by Fred Apgar

One of the motivating factors that prompted me to become a member of VFW was my desire to serve others. I wanted to help carrying on the rich tradition of VFW that had been established by my preceding generation. Our Post has been blessed by having a membership that shares that goal of serving others. Thanks to the collective efforts of many of our members, our Post has sponsored many worthwhile programs, the beneficiaries of which have been veterans, active duty personnel, members of their families, the youth of our community, and those in need.

In addition to promoting the mission of VFW Post #8870, those of you who volunteer your time to serve have gained a wonderful sense of personal satisfaction, knowing you have made a positive contribution to, in most cases, improve the quality of life of others. Serving and experiencing the fellowship of working with others also establishes connections, relationships that will last a life-time and from which you will derive much pleasure.

On behalf of those whom we serve, I want to extend my sincerest thanks to those members who consistently raise their hands to volunteer to support and participate in our programs and initiatives. To those members who have not been able to play a more active role in our programs, I invite you to attend our monthly meetings and encourage you to volunteer to serve so that the generous support and assistance we offer can be extended to more veterans.

Our Post has over 20 committees, each of which is always in need of additional members. I look forward to hearing from those of you who would like to take a more active role in our Post programs

The views expressed in this column are solely those of the Commander and do not represent those of VFW Post #8870, its membership, or VFW.