



VFW Post 8870 and
Auxiliary
Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org
Jim Traner,
Editor@vfw8870.org



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Upcoming Events Calendar

Please take time to review the calendar and if there are additions that are necessary, please contact the editor at editor@vfw8870.org

December 5th	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony—Naval Station Everett—0930
December 7th	Pearl Harbor Day—Flags flown at half-mast
December 9th	Staff Meeting—American Legion Post 66 Hall (117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds) 0900
December 12th	Post Meeting—American Legion Post 66 Hall—\$5 Lunch at 1130-Meeting at 1230
December 13th	Annual Joint VFW/American Legion Christmas party-1300 hours at Post 66 Legion Hall.

Buddy Poppy Drive a Huge Success

Bob Crawford is our chairman of our Buddy Poppy distributions and set another record on Veterans Day weekend. This year we raised \$12,227 while our volunteers spent a couple days at four locations. We were fortunate to have a fourth store after Tops Food closed their location in Edmonds and we were left to struggle to find a replacement. Fortunately, Fred Meyer allowed us to distribute Poppies at one of their locations allowing us to add \$2,200 from that store.

Veterans Day

Of course our first annual ceremony at Veterans Plaza was a big success (more in the newsletter about it) but we outdid ourselves on reaching out to the various schools and providing speakers and veterans for their Veterans Day assemblies. Commander Jim Blossey replaced our fallen Comrade, Rock Roth, in arranging the Post members to be in the appropriate schools at the correct times. We ended up being in 22 schools and talking to literally hundreds of students. We continue to add schools to our speaking engagements. Now we need to add some of you who haven't participated in the past.

You're Invited to Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas and Holiday Dinner will be held on December 13th at 1:00PM at the American Legion Hall at 117 6th Ave. S. in Edmonds. Admission is free but if you can, bring an unwrapped toy and/or non-perishable food items. Following the Dinner, we will deliver the food to the Edmonds Food Bank and the toys to Holly House. We will be holding a low key raffle with various baskets and other items in the raffle.

At the last meeting we passed around a list of items i.e. salads, deserts, etc., needed for the meal. We will pass it around again at December's meeting which is the day before our party. Otherwise, just show up with an appetite and spend a couple of hours with us.

And by the way, your family members are invited to this as well as any veterans you may know that you would like to invite. We don't plan on publishing this to the public as we have limitations on the amount of food we will have available.

Where Does Our Relief Funds Go?

We raise a lot of money handing out Buddy Poppies. How do we spend it? Not a single penny goes to the Post or to overhead. Here's this year's budget:

Service Officer	\$2,500	Special Olympics	\$ 500
Scholarships	\$4,000	Fallen Heroes Project	\$2,250
Youth Programs	\$1,000	Fisher Houses	\$2,000
Teacher of the Year	\$ 500	Santa's Castle—JBLM	\$1,000
Student Essays	\$ 750	Chaplains' Offices	\$1,500
Veterans Homes	\$2,000	Semper Fi Fund	\$ 500
National Home for Children	\$1,000	Wounded Warriors	\$ 500
National Military Services	\$1,000	CRISTA Camps	\$1,000
USO	\$1000	NW Battle Buddies	\$ 500
Rainier Therapeutic Riding	\$ 500	Wreaths Across America	\$ 500
Misc./Contingency	\$1,200		

Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Plaza

With the help of a lot of our Post members in setting up the Plaza for the ceremony, our first ever Veterans Day ceremony was a huge success. Our WWII veterans posted the wreath while Post Commander Jim Blossy MC'd the event with Mike Reagan being our featured speaker. Mike hit the correct tone in saying this Plaza would become a treasured spot for all the veterans in Edmonds and thanked the support of the city in making it possible. Dave Earling, Mayor, talked about how Veterans Day impacted him by the fact of family members serving and the loss of a close friend in Vietnam. It was a day to remember.



Edmonds Post 8870

VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2014



USS Killen DD-593

The following email was received by the Post:

My name is Juan Vera. I am the State Underwater Archaeologist in Puerto Rico. A few years ago we rediscovered a Fletcher Class destroyer in Puerto Rico. We have since identified it as the USS Killen DD-593. I have researched the history of the ship and its crew. One of your members, Amos B Chapman S2/C USNR, was a crew member on the Killen. I have put together a pictorial tribute to honor the ship and her crew for their service in a time of need. The Killen received a deadly attack on 1 November 1944. This year on the 70 anniversary of the attack, I laid a wreath and read the names of the 17 young sailors that gave their lives that day. I am sending you a copy of the tribute and would deeply appreciate if you can give a copy to Mr. Amos Chapman and his family. If I have made any mistakes in this tribute I would be glad to correct them or if Mr. Chapman or his family would like any photos or comment added, I would be more than happy to do so.



Amos B. Chapman

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. It participated in action in the Surigao Strait. The Killen was attacked by 9 Japanese Aircraft off of Leyte and was heavily damaged by a bomb, killing 15 crewmen. Amos resides in Edmonds. Amos retired from the US Postal Service Seattle. He has 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

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We appreciate receiving stories about our members. The report that Mr. Vera send with his email was quite extensive and far too lengthy to be included in this newsletter. The fact that someone took the time to learn the history of a ship and its crew is remarkable. Amos and the crew of the USS Killen have our deepest thanks for their service.

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Letter from Your Editor

In addition to the Veteran Organizations that I belong to (VFW, American Legion, VVA, and the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia), I also belong to Rotary. In days past, attendance of weekly Rotary meetings was mandatory and missing more than a few was grounds for termination. That requirement is long gone, but I recall one older Rotarian, Babe Buckland who some of you may have known, who had perfect attendance for decades, how many I don't recall. One day he was fishing out of Port Angeles and in the middle of a tremendous bite, he pulled up and left to attend the local Rotary meeting. As he told it, the salmon were chewing the keel off his boat. Upon hearing that, I made it a point to miss one meeting a year to make sure I didn't get addicted to a perfect attendance record knowing I'd never leave a hot bite.

I find myself somewhat in the same dilemma that Babe was in as I changed the number of years and issues on the header page of this newsletter. I have put this newsletter out for 12 years without missing an issue although I will be a day late this month. Since 13 is an unlucky number when it comes to newsletters (I just made that up), I'd like to step aside and let someone else put something together so I'm looking for volunteers (a bad thing when dealing with wily veterans). I began this newsletter because I think keeping all your members informed, particularly those who can't make meetings or have moved out of the area, is critical to having a cohesive Post. As District Commander, I was able to implement a District newsletter as well as having several Posts begin their own newsletter. I can still be involved in the formatting but I would appreciate a few reporters doing the hard work. A good newsletter is done by committee anyway. You know where to find me.