



### August Calendar

Aug 4: Post Staff Meeting - 9:00 AM American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave S., Edmonds

Aug 11: Post Meeting - American Legion Hall, Dinner at 5:15 PM (\$5) Meeting at 6 PM

Aug 10: Purple Heart Night at the Mariners, 7 PM Safeco Field

## Post Member Michael Reagan Receives Well Deserved National Recognition

By  
Fred M. Apgar

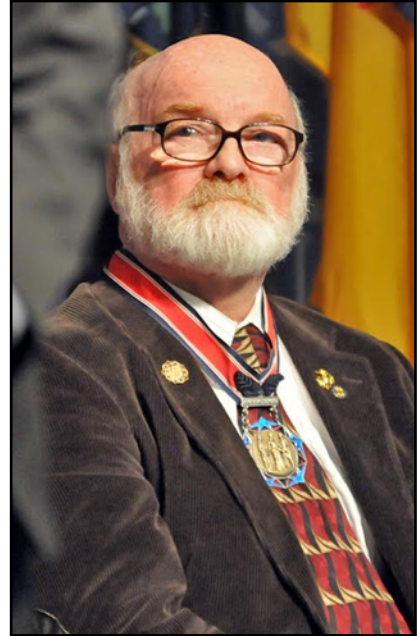


At a recent ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery, Michael Reagan, an active and loyal member of our Post, was awarded the *Citizens Before Self Honor Medal*. Referred to as the Civilian Medal of Honor, this prestigious medal was awarded to Michael by the Medal of Honor Foundation, an organization comprised of recipients of our nation's highest military medal, the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH). This recognition is one of the highest and most prestigious awards that is bestowed on private citizens.

The Medal of Honor Foundation was founded in 1999 for the purpose of perpetuating the legacy of the MOH through outreach and educational programs. The program to honor private citizens was created to recognize those ordinary Americans from across the country who perform extraordinary acts of courage or through a continued commitment to service by placing the needs of others first. Michael was selected as a 2015 honoree "for his service in founding the non-profit Fallen Heroes Project, which provides hand-drawn portraits to the families of all servicemen and women who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan".

***Reagan receives recognition, cont'd***

Michael is a Seattle native, and following his high school graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Following a combat tour of duty in Vietnam, he attended art school. He worked as a graphic arts designer for the Seattle Public Schools, which led to a position at the University of Washington, an affiliation that remains today. Michael is a portrait artist, and during his 40 year career, he has drawn over 10,000 portraits of celebrities, professional athletes, U.S. Presidents, as well as other heads of state. Early in his career, Michael made the decision to use his skill and reputation as a much sought after portrait artist to perform charitable work for a wide range of benevolent organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Children's Hospital, the Humane Society, and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. To date, his signed celebrity portraits have raised over \$10 million for these deserving organizations.



***Mike appears with this year's class of recipients, fourth row up, fourth from right.***





## Memory of Past Commander Dennis Gaasland Honored

At the age of 17 and with the permission of his parents, Dennis Gaasland joined the Navy to serve his nation during WW II. Trained as a radar operator, Dennis also served in a combat amphibious unit. While serving in the Pacific, Dennis was sent to the Solomon Islands, New Hebrides Islands, Guadalcanal, and the Russel Islands before his convoy participated in the landing at the Gulf of Leyte in the Philippines. Following the war, Dennis married his childhood sweetheart, Helen, and graduated from UW with a degree in Business Administration. He was a successful businessman, working with several Seattle law firms. Dennis served at Post #8870 Commander from 1992-1994 and again from 1995-1996. He passed away in March 2015.



At the July meeting, Post member Mike Reagan honored the memory of Dennis by presenting a portrait of a young Dennis in his Navy uniform to his wife of more than 67 years, Helen. Also in attendance was her son, Greg. Mike, of course, is the founder of the Fallen Heroes Project, and to date, he has drawn portraits of over 4000 American veterans who have lost their lives while in service to our great nation. In his remarks, Mike assured Mrs. Gaasland that the Post would, “always remember one of our own”.

## World War II Veterans Honored

Post 8870 members Edgar Shepherd and Benton Webb were honored at the July Post meeting with engraved plaques recognizing their service in the United States Navy during World War II.

Both men served from 1942 to 1945. We are proud to have these WWII veterans as our Post Comrades.

These comrades are included in the group of our remaining WWII vets so honored earlier.



# Veterans Lead off annual Edmonds Kind of 4th Parade!



*Members of VFW Post 8870 form a Color Guard to lead the parade. Left to right are Jim Collins, Carl Kurfess, Dennis Peterson & John Shelton.*



*Edmonds Veterans and members of the Washington National Guard form up along Main St. before the parade.*





## An Edmonds Veterans Kind of 4th!

Comrades of Post 8870 and their families gathered after the parade to share some great food prepared both on site and brought from home.



Cooking up a batch of burgers and dogs.



Post members and their families enjoy some traditional 4th of July fare.

A great opportunity to celebrate the reason we served.



# Purple Heart Night at the Mariners!

**Monday, August 10 - 7:10 PM at Safeco Field. Mariners vs Orioles.**

Get a specially priced ticket, receive a Mariners Purple Heart T-shirt and support a great cause. Tickets start at \$22 and a portion of the proceeds will benefit your local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

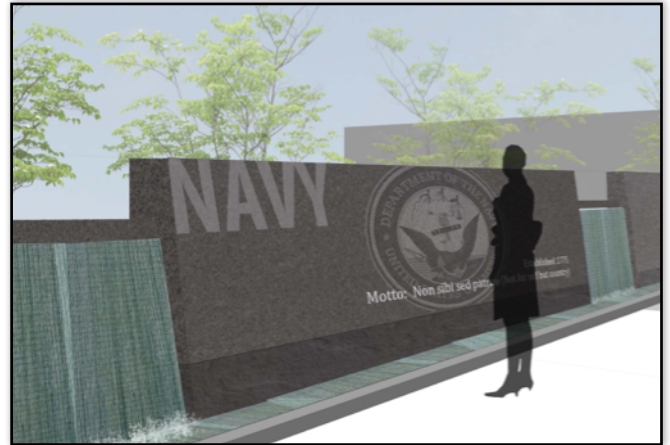
The icing on the cake: Our own Phil Sacks who is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, will be throwing out the first pitch!

Put it right over the plate, Phil!

## Edmonds Veterans Plaza

The Plaza project is going full steam ahead and our fundraising committee wishes to remind all of our members that this is *our* project for the memory of all veterans past, present and future.

Each of us needs to look at ways in which we can contribute to the raising of the necessary funds; from our own contributions, large or small and from other community resources with whom we may have influence.



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