



Events on the Horizon:

Staff Meetings: 0900 First Tuesday of every month at American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds

Post Meetings: Second Tuesday of every month at American Legion Hall; Dinner at 1715 (\$5) Meeting at 1800.

Friday, Sept 11: Patriots Day

Friday, Sept 18: POW/MIA Remembrance Day

Veterans Day Poppy Distribution: Fri. & Sat Nov. 6 & 7. Sign up for your shift with Bob Crawford.

Phil Sacks; Major League Pitcher

Korean War veteran, Purple Heart recipient and Post 8870 member Phil Sacks had the honor of throwing out the first pitch on Monday night, Aug. 10, as the Seattle Mariners took on the Baltimore Orioles.



A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Phil served in the US Army, 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. Serving in Korea, the division was trying to take the aptly-named Heartbreak Ridge, when shrapnel from an enemy artillery barrage tore into his back and took him out of the war.

He received his Purple Heart while recovering in the Osaka, Japan Army hospital, where the large numbers of wounded meant that there wasn't much ceremony involved. "Some officer in a uniform walked by my bed with a box of Purple Hearts, handed me one, and moved on to the next recipient," he said. "I was kinda woozy, and didn't fully realize what was going on till after he left my bedside."

After the war, Sacks enrolled in Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute under the G.I. Bill. He graduated in 1958 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked for several employers, ultimately retiring from Lockheed in 1995. He moved to Edmonds the next year. He was quick to get involved in his community, and soon began volunteering with the Edmonds Police Department's neighborhood crime watch program.

(Phil Sacks continued)

Sacks was the second Purple Heart recipient to toss out a pitch at a Mariners' game (last year it was a WWII vet). The event is timed to coincide with the date George Washington instituted the Purple Heart, then called the Badge of Military Merit, and awarded it to three Revolutionary War soldiers on Aug. 7, 1782.

"It's a great honor to be invited to do this," Sacks said the day before the game. He then added with a grin, "but my right arm has been giving me some trouble the past few years, so I'm not sure my pitch will make it to home plate." But when game time came, Sacks' arm was in fine form. Standing between the mound and home, he gave it a nice, easy toss right to the plate where it was caught by Mariners' pitcher Taijuan Walker.

Excerpted from MyEdmonds news.com article written By Larry Vogel



New Member Rod Fritsch Inducted



At the August Post meeting, we welcomed yet another comrade to the fold

Rod is retired Navy having served 1991-2011. He is originally from Jefferson, WI. Rod served two tours in Bahrain, 2009-10 and 2010-11, performing Mine Countermeasure duties for the fifth Fleet.

He also served in Turkey in 1997 as part of Operation Northern Watch enforcing an Iraq no-fly zone. Rod was an Avionics Technician and performed training, management and logistic engineer duties.

Sea duty included stints on the USS Tarawa, USS Iwo Jima and the RFA Lyme Bay. (RFA Lyme Bay is a Bay-Class auxiliary landing ship dock of the British Royal Navy.)

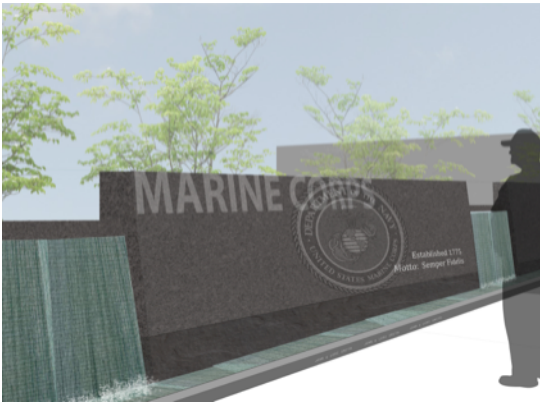
Awards include the Navy Achievement Medal (4), Navy Good Conduct Medal (6) and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2). Rod resides with his wife Maureen in Arlington, WA. They have 4 children. He is currently enrolled in college.

Veterans Day: Buddy Poppy time



Bob Crawford, our stalwart organizer of poppy distribution, asks that you be certain November 6-7 are on your calendar and arrange your scheduled hours with him. We will have four locations to staff this time around. Bob can go over the opportunities with you, so be sure you get together with him at the September meeting, or call him to make arrangements. If all of our active members participate, it will be an easy and productive weekend. There is no more rewarding activity to participate in as a VFW member.

Edmonds Veterans Plaza Update



The Edmonds Veterans Plaza Committee is moving ahead with its work of designing and raising funds for the new community recognition of all Veterans, past, present and future.

The crucial job at the moment is, of course, fund raising and our crack fund raising committee is hard at work.

If you have business or organizational contacts who might help with donations, large or small, please do what you can to either solicit the donation yourself, or make the organization known to the committee. If you have questions, see either Commander Blosssey, or Plaza Committee Chair Ron Clyborne.

NEW VFW AUXILIARY NOW WELCOMES MEN

HISTORIC CHANGE REFLECTS TODAY'S MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES

August 21, 2015

The former Ladies Auxiliary VFW, founded in 1914, is the VFW's highly regarded support organization and is considered its "Partner in Service."

Under its former name, Ladies Auxiliary VFW, membership within the organization was offered exclusively to female spouses and family members of any member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The gender-specific eligibility requirement remained for more than 100 years until July 20, 2015, when delegates to the VFW's 116th National Convention in Pittsburgh voted to amend the dated by-law to extend the same membership opportunity to eligible males and the name changed appropriately to simply VFW Auxiliary.

"It's an exciting time to be a member of the Auxiliary," said National President Francisca Guilford. "Women comprise nearly twenty percent of our nation's military, and this change allows all spouses, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons and brothers to serve others in honor of their veteran."

For more information about the VFW Auxiliary, please visit www.vfwauxiliary.org.

Jim Traner Recognized for District Newsletter

At the District 1 meeting on August 29, 2015, Jim Traner was recognized by the Department for publishing what has been judged to be among the best District newsletters in the state of Washington. A certificate of recognition was presented to Jim by Department Adjutant, Fred Green. Jim served as District 1 Commander for two years, and he is the founder and editor of the award winning newsletter. He has served in that capacity for the past four years and has worked diligently to publish the monthly newsletter.



Jim was elected Post Commander in July 2009 and served in that role for three years. Prior to being elected to that leadership position, he created our Post newsletter, which, since its inception, has also received Department honors. Both the Post and District newsletters are published monthly.

Jim served as District 1 Commander from 2012 until 2014. For the past two years, he has served as Chief of Staff for District 1 Commander Don Wischmann.

Jim, with Dist. Commander Wischman and Dist. Aux. Pres. Tami Wagoner