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March, 2109- Vol.16 No. 3

Events on the Horizon:

Staff Meetings: 1st Tues., 9:00 AM at American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds
Post Meetings: Third Wed., American Legion Hall; Dinner at 5:00 PM (\$5) Meeting at 6:00 PM
Post Auxiliary Meeting: Second Thurs., Edmonds Senior Center at noon. No host lunch.
(Questions: call or email Valerie Ehlers, 206-853-5673 or val4erie9@gmail.com.)

*Our next regular Post meeting will be on Wed. Mar. 20, 2019
Nominations for 2019-20 Post officers at March Post meeting*

**March Post Meeting Program
Presentation of Post Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**



We will have a special guest of honor at our March Post meeting in the person of Detective Nicole Stone, of the Mukilteo Police Department, our Law Enforcement Officer of the year, who has also been declared District 1 LOE of the Year and Department of Washington LOE of the year.

Detective Stone will be our guest, along with her sponsoring officer for the actual presentation of the Post award.

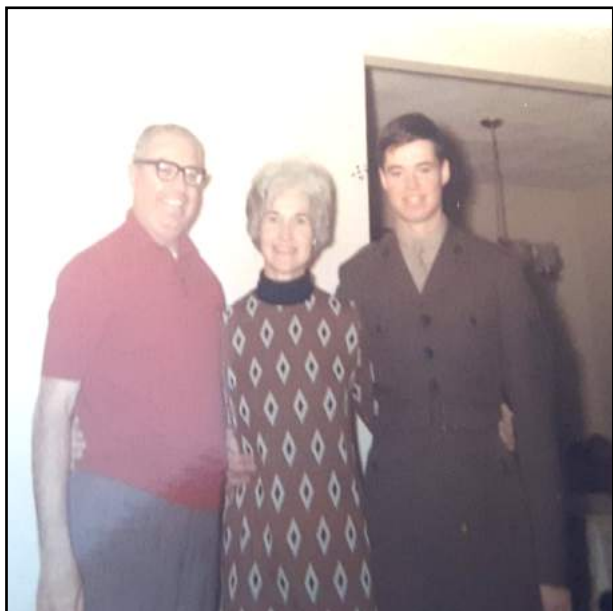


Commander's Corner

A reminder: nominations for Post officers for the 2020 VFW year will be held at the March meeting. Again, elective offices are Commander, Jr. and Sr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and Trustees. Our nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates for your conderation, but nominations will also be taken from the floor. Please do not nominate anyone without their permission. Elections will take place at the April Post meeting.

Looking ahead, we will begin sign ups for Memorial Day Poppy distribution this month, to take place on Friday and Saturday, May 24 & 25 at our four usual locations. We need all hands participating to maximize results. Please consider working multiple shifts.

Memories of our Youth



This photo of our Post Chaplain, Dan Doyle, shown with his parents, was taken in his guise as a Navy Corpsman attached to the Fleet Marine Force. Dan served with the Marines at Ke Sahn and for those familiar with the action around the time of the Tet offensive, little more need be said.

Your editor would very much like others of you to share photos of yourself and your comrades during your active service to make this a regular feature of our newsletter.

Fallen Heroes Project

An excerpt of some thoughts by Mike Reagan

This morning I finished my love letter to Fallen Canine Hero Apollo. He died in this war June 5, 2013. Please Never Forget.

I believe that while I work with the fallen I bring them back for a period of time as I draw. I try to listen to them, even the animals.



A Gold Star family once asked me why I wanted to linger in all of your grief. I answered I wasn't, I am spending time in your love. If you were to take any of my posts, like Apollo and follow up on the image you would find a fantastic story, sometimes sad, but a nonetheless fantastic story about a Hero. I live in these more than 6000 stories and have for 15 years. While its impossible for me to explain how I feel love for every single fallen hero I draw, the families see it in the result.

Life has 2 realities. The one most of us understand, where we can see, hear, smell and touch it. and the one that we need to learn to just believe, where we can't do any of those above things. That ability takes trauma to achieve. You learn to believe because you have to, to hold on to whatever you lost that you loved the most. Once I draw a portrait of the fallen they become a part of me. I am a part of a lot of wonderful individuals and animals, who I believe died for me. Never Forget.

Post Announces 2019 Scholarship Program

BY DON STAPLETON

Reprinted from the Edmonds Beacon

Mike Denton, commander of Edmonds' VFW Post 8870, has announced the Post will, once again, offer its Freedom Scholarship.

The scholarships will be awarded to four deserving graduating seniors who live within the Edmonds and Mukilteo school districts. Students who live within the boundaries of the districts but attend private schools or are home-schooled are also eligible to apply.

Each of the four scholarships are \$1,500, and will be awarded to seniors who will be enrolling full time at an accredited vocational, technical, college, or university in fall 2019.

Students must submit a transcript of

their high school academic record and a resume that lists high school activities, leadership positions, and any volunteer work.

In addition, applicants will be asked to write a 300- to 500-word essay in which they explain the meaning of freedom to them, and how the Constitution establishes and maintains a culture of freedom in the country.

Students may obtain a Freedom Scholarship application from the Career Centers in their respective high schools, or it can be downloaded from www.vfw8870.org.

The deadline is April 15. Scholarship recipients will be notified of their selection prior to their high school's spring awards program.

Edmonds Veterans Plaza - Kiosk Issues

If you have visited the Edmonds Veterans Plaza recently, you will note that the information kiosk has a protective cover placed over it and is not yet in operation.

The system was expected to have been activated by now, however, the recent exposure to snow and ice has damaged the equipment requiring the manufacturer to replace the interface mechanisms.
(Keyboard and roller mouse)

While the unit was sold as "weather proof" that description seems to have been optimistic. Discussions are underway with the manufacturer, who has agreed to replace the faulty parts. The EVP Committee is exploring the placement of a cover or roof on the kiosk to protect it from rain, snow and debris from the overhanging trees.

We still hope to hold a dedication ceremony around Memorial Day. Stay tuned for further developments.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, What Makes America Great.

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., Feb 29 - March 4, 2020, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$154,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school.

PATRIOT'S PEN

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 120,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the winner and a parent or guardian.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible.

2019 - 2020 Theme
"What Makes America Great"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2019

Printable Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$30,000 Award

Custom Wooden Plaques Available for Veterans

Many of you will recall occasions in the past when plaques such as those shown below were presented to some of our comrades, commemorating their service to our country. Mike Reagan has advised us that this opportunity is available to our membership at large. These plaques are produced by Dennis Hogan of North Beach VFW in Ocean Shores. Reagan provided the contact information and order form below for those of you who may wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you wish to so honor a veteran, you may contact Comrade Hogan directly.



Military Plaque Request

Please Print Clearly

Vets Full Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Year in: _____ Year out: _____

Any Special Notations: example: Medals, Division, Ship, Duty Station ect.-----

If War Vet, please note Conflict _____

PLAQUE REQUEST CONTACT INFORMATION

North Beach VFW

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OR