

VFW *The Veterans' Voice*

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

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Newsletter matters: editor@vfw8870.org.

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Events on the Horizon:

Staff Meetings: 1st Wed., 4:30 PM at American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds (note change)

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: **Valerie Ehlers** email: val4erie9@gmail.com)

Our next regular Post meeting will be on Wed. May 15, 2019

Poppy Distribution Fri. & Sat. May 24-25;

Memorial Day Ceremonies Mon. May 27

Your 2019-20 Post officers

We will be installing post officers for the 2019-20 VFW year at the May Post meeting, reflecting the results of elections held in April.

Our new leadership roster:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| • Commander | Rose Gilliland |
| • Sr. Vice Commander | Carl Kurfess |
| • Jr. Vice Commander | Duane Bowman |
| • Quartermaster | Dennis Peterson |
| • Chaplain | Dan Doyle |
| • 1st Year Trustee | Jim Murdock |
| • 2nd Year Trustee | Kerry Watkins |
| • 3rd Year Trustee | Don Stapleton |



Incoming Commander Gilliland reports the following in appointed positions:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| • Adjutant | Richard Simmons |
| • Service Officer | Don Whedon |
| • Judge Advocate | Jim Traner |
| • Surgeon | Charles Gaul |
| • Guard | John Shelton |
| • Officer of the Day | Jim Collins |

We all are grateful to these our comrades for their willingness to accept a leadership role and the accompanying responsibility. Rose Gilliland, Duane Bowman and Jim Murdock & Jim Traner are stepping into new positions, while the rest of the group are continuing in positions held, in some cases, for a number of years. As the public likes to say these days to us vets: "Thank you for your service".

Edmonds Post 8870 - Allstate Post for 2018 -19



We have received word from our District & Department leadership that Edmonds Post 8870 has met the requirements for Allstate Post for the current VFW year.

While Quartermaster Dennis Peterson and Commander Mike Denton will wear the “White Hat”, it is worn in recognition of all that has been accomplished by our entire membership in the past year.

Ours is a busy post, with many members participating in community service and keeping an eye out for new members on a regular basis.

Particular thanks go out to Past Post and District Commander Jim Traner for his guidance, District 1 staff, especially Commander Doug White, for special help and leadership and our stalwart Quartermaster, Dennis Peterson.

The Commander's Corner

As we approach the installation of our new Commander at the May meeting, I want to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Commander for these past two years. It has been a busy time, has passed swiftly and I have learned much.



At the District meeting of commanders recently, District 1 Commander Doug White told me that if he were not already a VFW member and free to join any post he liked, he would probably choose 8870. He said he very much enjoys visiting our post and finds our meetings among the most enjoyable of the district. High praise indeed and it is you, our members who deserve those accolades. Commander White has agreed to be our installing officer at the May meeting. My most visible role going forward, will be to continue to act as your newsletter editor.

Memorial Day Poppy Distribution



As has been our longstanding practice, the Post will be distributing poppies on Friday and Saturday, May 24 & 25 of Memorial Day weekend. We will be at four locations: The QFC stores at Mukilteo Speedway, Edmonds Westgate & West Lynnwood (196th & 76th) and at the Fred Meyer at 164th and Alderwood Mall Blvd.(All of these locations are Kroger Co. stores and we are grateful for their support. Other notable grocery chains have turned us down in the past)

You can sign up any time on the Post website. Sign up sheets will also be available once again at the May Post meeting. This really needs to be an “All Hands Evolution” as we say in the USN, so please step up and take a couple of shifts. **We very much need more help at the West Lynnwood QFC.** If you have willing friends and family, we can use all the help we can get.

Poppy distribution is the sole source of funds for our Relief Fund and we need lots of people handing out poppies and taking money.

It is a fun and rewarding experience to honor our fallen as we raise funds, with the added opportunity to hear donors' stories of their own or family members' service and share our own.

In Flanders Fields the Poppies blow, among the crosses, row on row...

Introducing Rose Gilliland, our New Commander



Our incoming Commander, Rose Gilliland seems to be a bit camera shy, despite being one of the more active members of our post for quite some time, but we were able to dredge up this pic of her from the presentation of a donation to one of our veterans homes in 2016.

For the past several years, she has been a valued member of our Relief Committee, our Jr. Vice Commander and a faithful distributor of poppies as well as just about everything else we do.

An Army Veteran of Desert Storm, she joined the Army in 1986 was stationed with B Co. 3/9th Aviation Regiment, Ft. Lewis, Wa. In 1989 she was sent to Korea to join 2nd Battalion 501st Avn Regiment at. Camp Humphreys. Having left active service in 1990 Rose was recalled for Desert Storm in 1991, again with B Co. 3/9th Aviation Regiment at Ft. Lewis.

Rose lives and works in Mukilteo.

She will be installed as Commander in ceremonies at the May Post meeting.

April Speaker Casey Davis of Edmonds Food Bank

At the April Post meeting, Casey Davis, Executive Director of Edmonds Food Bank spoke to us about the Food Bank's operations and it's potential impact on veterans in need.

The mission of the food bank, operating out of the Edmonds United Methodist Church, is to provide, free of charge, fresh and nutritious food to families needing help who are located in Edmonds and in the surrounding communities of South Snohomish County.

Hunger affects many of us. One life transition – job loss or change, health issue, family crisis, cuts in benefits – can make it so we must choose between healthy food and other necessities. Often, we just need a little assistance. The Carol Rowe Memorial Edmonds Food Bank operates to provide that help. Open on Mondays & Tuesdays, 50 weeks a year.



Davis points out that Edmonds has the largest percentage of veterans (11%) in its population of any city in Snohomish County, with far more of them in need of some level of help than we might think.

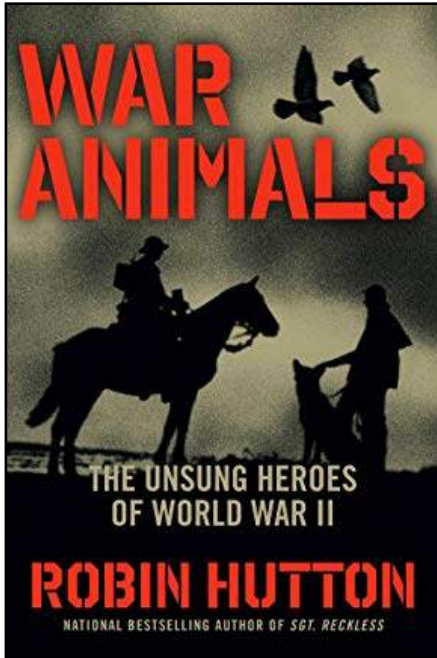
Davis discussed with post members some ideas of the kind of assistance VFW might offer to reach those veterans in need, such as having cover wearing members as volunteers on food distribution days, holding regular food donation drives, among others. We agreed that discussion among our staff and membership is in order toward reaching out to veterans who might be in need of food assistance.

From the Bookshelf

by Carl Kurfess

War Animals -The Unsung Heroes of World War II.

By Robin L. Hutton



"Today, war is a high-tech affair. The modern soldier relies on advanced weapons and communications technology as his essential support. But in World War II, soldiers relied on an entirely different kind of support--a kind of support soldiers have used since ancient times. Animals. Dogs, horses, and pigeons became World War II soldiers' best friends in battle, serving to carry weapons, wounded men, and messages through artillery fire. In War Animals, bestselling author Robin Hutton brings the animal heroes of World War II to vivid life with the heroic true tales of: Famed pigeon G.I. Joe, who saved an Italian village and British troops by flying 20 miles in 20 minutes to carry a message to Allied forces; Chips, a German Shepherd trained as a sentry who attacked an Italian machine gun team, sustaining powder burns and saving his handler's life;

Bing, a parodog who jumped out of a plane on D-Day, landed in a tree, and once on the ground helped his handlers locate the enemy. A heartwarming and sometimes even hilarious history of bonafide heroes of feather and fur, War Animals is a World War II story you've never read before."-- Provided by publisher.

I found this book quite interesting, especially the War Dog part. The US Army used dogs as sentry, scout dogs, sled and pack, mine detection, and messenger dogs. The US Coast Guard used them mainly for sentry duties, and the US Marines used them as scout dogs. Pigeons were used as message carriers, horses and mules were used it the Italian theater, carrying supplies up hills and mountains that vehicles could not traverse.

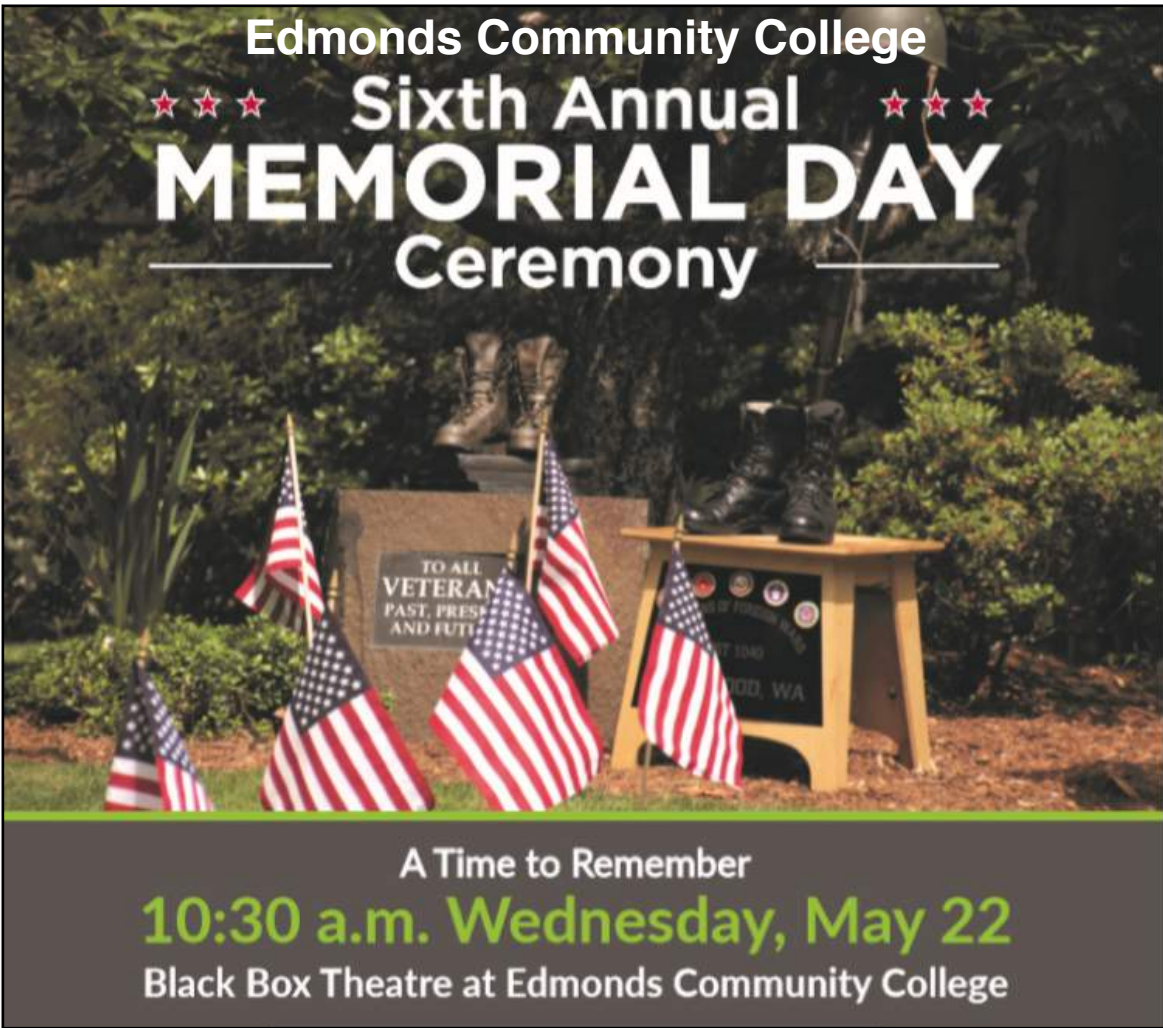
The book also covers the British use of animals, especially rescue dogs who located trapped civilians in bombed out buildings from German bombing attacks. This book introduced me to the British People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) Dicken Medal which was awarded to some of these outstanding animals.

ACE 1 Million Flag Giveaway

In the efforts to bring awareness to the meaning of Memorial Day, Ace Hardware is going to give away 1 million American stick flags. VFW Posts, including Post 8870 are receiving these flags to place on veterans' graves.

Our thanks to Ace Hardware store and especially our local Edmonds store.





Edmonds Community College invites everyone to the Sixth Annual Memorial Day Ceremony with wreath laying on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019 from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM at the Campus' BlackBox Theater.



This year we'll be marking the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

Each year we come together on the Wednesday before Memorial Day to reflect on the price paid for our freedom, and to show our gratitude to the families of the fallen as well as those still living who are connected to our Armed Forces in some way.

We hope you will join us for this special event that has become a time-honored tradition on our campus. People from across our campus and community come together to create our Memorial Day Ceremony. Local Girl Scout Troops from Lynnwood and Mukilteo place flags along our procession route between the theater and the Boots to Books Monument where we'll lay a wreath created by Linda Toccoli from our Campus Horticulture Department.

Our Master of Ceremonies will be Jon Ramer, USAF (Ret.). We will have speeches from our College President and the Mayor of Lynnwood, as well as one of our student veterans, a retired US Army Apache Helicopter Pilot. Musical performances by Native American Flautist Peter Ali, Bugler Glenn Ledbetter and Bagpiper Toby Beard are also featured.



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Auxilliary Election Results:

President: Patsy Ethridge-Neal phone: (206)919-6533

Senior Vice President: Trudy Holden

Junior Vice President: Valerie Ehlers

Secretary/Treasurer: Jo Boyett Phone: (425)481-9208

Chaplain: Alan Bridgeford

Conductress: Carrie Bridgeford

Guard: Carrie Bridgeford

3-year Trustee: Trudy Holden

Meeting Schedule

As the Edmonds Senior Center closes for construction of the new Edmonds Waterfront Center, which will house the Senior Center in future, we find it necessary to move our meeting location, beginning with the June meeting.

Our May 9th meeting will be held at 12:00 pm at the Edmonds Senior Center, as, usual.

Our June 13th meeting will be held at 12:00 pm at Holy Trinity Church, 657 Daly St in Edmonds, unless otherwise noted.

Lunch is available at both locations before the meeting for about \$4.00.