



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



VFW Auxiliary

The Veterans' Voice

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

PO Box 701, Edmonds, WA 98020 - 425-245-8545

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Post Calendar

Staff Meeting: **Tues. January 7, 4:30 PM 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., at Holy Trinity Church, 657 Daly St in Edmonds, No host lunch.

(Questions: call Patsy Ethridge-Neal phone: (206) 919-6533

Wreaths Across America, Evergreen Washelli, 11220 Aurora Ave. N. Seattle., Sat. Dec 14, 9:00 AM

**VFW Legion Christmas Party, Edmonds Legion Bldg.,
Sat. December 14, Gather @ noon, dinner @ 1:00 PM**

Our next regular Post meeting will be on Wed. January 15, 2020



VFW/American Legion Combined Christmas Party Slated

Our annual Christmas gathering will be held on Saturday, December 14. We plan to follow our usual program and start to gather at noon, with dinner, consisting of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and all the usual trimmings to be served at 1:00.

Side dishes and desserts are to be provided on a "pot luck" basis by members who have signed up in advance to do so.



The event will feature an auction of items donated by the Post staffs, the proceeds of which will be shared between the two posts. We will also again be collecting new, unwrapped toys for needy kids and food items for the food bank.

It promises to be a good time with plenty of food and beverages and the company of good friends and family. The accompanying photos from earlier years, should get you in the mood!

Meet New Member Dick Harsin

Dick served on active duty with the Navy from 1969 through 1980, and was a “Blue Water” Sailor during Vietnam. Dick served as a supply officer (Lieut.) on the USS Sperry (sub tender) and on USS Vesuvius (ammunition ship). He spent 383 days off the coast of Vietnam providing ammunition to ships from destroyers to aircraft carriers. Later, Dick was inventory control officer at NAS Whidbey Island; Supply Officer and Comptroller at NAS Agana Guam and finally DOD disposal officer at Defense Logistics Command Ogden Utah.

In 1980 Dick started his CPA business which he sold in 1995. Since 1995 he has worked in wealth management, financial planning and tax strategy planning.



Harsin takes the oath as OOD Jim Collins looks on

Dick and wife Nancy have been married for 45 years and have two daughters one living in Lake Forest Park the other living in Anchorage. They have seven grandkids ranging in age between 10 and 24.

Over the years Dick has been heavily involved in child abuse prevention programs and has served on various national boards. He is the minor league coordinator for Pacific Little League and also for more than 18 years served as manager of a minor league team (ages nine through 11) for Pacific Little League. Dick is, along with several other members of our Post, also a member of the Rotary Club of Edmonds, Daybreakers.

Post 8870 Members Awarded Quilts of Honor.

In November, two more of our World War II veteran members were awarded Quilts of Honor, following on the group of four awarded in September.

Edgar Shepherd survived the sinking of the USS Helena in the Battle of Kula Gulf in south Pacific action against the Japanese Imperial Navy in World War II. The light cruiser, which had come through the Pearl Harbor attack, was tasked with protecting other ships in the South Pacific during the Guadalcanal campaign. The Helena went down on July 6, 1943. Nearly 170 crewmen died. Shepherd was part of a group that clung to a life raft.

On the USS Helena, he worked in the plotting room, which included the control system for the guns. He also fought in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.



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(Quilts of Honor cont'd from p.2)

After finishing his time at sea, Shepherd helped start a Navy reserve center in Colorado before moving to California to help his uncle open a doughnut shop. He later got a job in Los Angeles at an electrical company where he worked for 24 years. He lives in Edmonds with daughter Paula Kilbourne. Paula once offered to take him whitewater rafting. He turned her down. He had clung to a rubber raft, adrift in dark waters after the USS Helena sank. He wasn't interested in getting on a raft again. Ed celebrated his 101st birthday on July 4, 2019.



Dan White Enlisted in the Army in 1946, served nearly two years, and was called back in 1950. A retired middle school teacher, White lives in Redmond but spent years in the Edmonds area and remains an active member of Post 8870. In Korea, he flew a modified Cessna called an L-19. His duties involved adjusting artillery. Back home, he and his wife raised four boys. He earned two degrees, stayed in the reserves and retired as a colonel.

Edmonds Mayor Honored for EVP Support



At a November meeting of the Edmonds City Council, Mayor Dave Earling was presented with his portrait by Fallen Heroes Project artist Mike Reagan, in recognition of his work in support of the Edmonds Veterans Plaza. Earling will end his service as Mayor in January of 2020 after serving two full terms.

The backing and support of the City and its leaders has been invaluable to the completion of the Plaza.

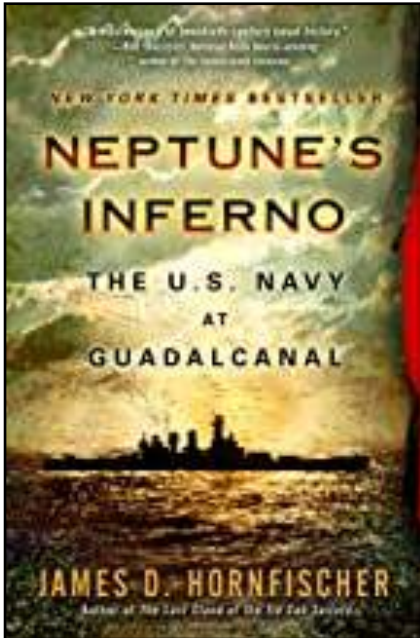
THANK YOU Mr. Mayor!

New Post Trustee

At the November post meeting, the need for a new Post Trustee to replace Jim Murdock, who is now our Adjutant, was announced. Past Commander Mike Denton has agreed to accept the vacant Trustee post effective immediately.

From the Bookshelf

Neptune's Inferno: The U.S. Navy at Guadalcanal *by James D. Hornfischer*



The Battle of Guadalcanal has long been heralded as a Marine Corps victory and not without reason. Now, with his powerful portrait of the Navy's sacrifice, James D. Hornfischer tells the full story of the men who fought in destroyers, cruisers, and battleships in the narrow, deadly waters of "Ironbottom Sound." Here are the seven major naval actions that began in August 1942, a time when the war seemed unwinnable and America fought on a shoestring, with the outcome always in doubt. Hornfischer paints a vivid picture of the officers and enlisted men who opposed the Japanese in America's hour of need. It is worth noting that despite long a standing Marine view that the Navy abandoned the Marines to their own devices at Guadalcanal, (and one can understand that view) in the end USN KIA (5041) vastly exceeded those of the USMC ashore (1,592).

It is an honor to once again review a book which tells a story lived by one of our Post 8870 comrades, in this case 101 year old Edgar Shepherd, member of the ship's company of USS Helena, a key participant in the actions described in this book and lost the year following the Guadalcanal campaign at the battle of Kula Gulf.

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah! Happy New Year!
Or just Happy Holidays!

Whatever holidays you and yours celebrate, we hope they will be filled with good company, good food and all the joys of being with family and friends.

