



The Veterans' Voice

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

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

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Newsletter Editor, Mike Denton, editor@vfw8870.org

Post Calendar

Staff Meeting: First Wed, 4:30 PM at American Legion Hall, 117 6th Ave. S., Edmonds

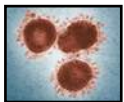
Post Meetings: Third Wed., American Legion Hall, Dinner at 5:00 PM (\$5) Meeting at 6:00 PM

Post Auxiliary Meeting: March Meeting Cancelled (Questions: call Patsy Ethridge-Neal phone: (206) 919-6533)

Our next regular Post meeting will be (we hope) Wed. April 15

Meeting and event information can be found on the Post website: www.vfw8870.org

Follow us on Facebook: VFW Post 8870 - Edmonds, WA



March Post Meeting Cancelled Due to Corona Virus!

No doubt you have all been following the news regarding the Covid-19 pandemic over the past month or so, and have seen the announcements coming out of Federal, State and Local governments calling for cancellation of larger group gatherings and warnings to those of sensitive groups. (People over the age of 60 and others with certain existing medical conditions, which, unfortunately includes many of us.)

Your Commander has, in discussion with the other Post officers, decided that the risk is great enough for many of our members to cancel our usual meeting on the third Wednesday.

Commander Gilliland and your Post officers will do our best to keep you informed of further developments and to continue planning for our usual activities going forward. Meanwhile, as our Comrade Ron Clyborne suggested to us today, consider spending some time at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza, thinking of all of our comrades who have gone before us. If you are there at the right time of day, there is an excellent chance you will encounter Mike Reagan and others of our membership. (But not too closely we hope)

Wash your hands a lot. Keep away from large crowds. Try to avoid physical contact with other people. Stay well and we will meet soon.

Teachers of the Year Feted at Feb. Post Meeting

Marilyn Roberts teaches at Marysville Middle School. Ms Roberts has been a friend of the Post since then Commander Fred Apgar responded to her call for Buddy Poppies to distribute to and with her students for Memorial Day several years ago.



Marilyn Roberts

It is with great pride that we report that Ms. Roberts was also awarded District 1 Teacher of the Year.

Tamera Harber, American History Teacher at Everett High School. Ms Harber spoke to us about teaching her students about the importance of Memorial Day and Veterans day and how she uses the poem “In Flanders Fields” as a teaching tool.



Tamera Harber

Julie Bivens, Who teaches at Serene Lake Elementary in Mukilteo, was unable to be with us.

Voice of Democracy / Student Essay



Voice of Democracy winner Annabelle Mills of Mountlake Terrace H.S., (shown at left) read her essay to the assembly.

Student Essay winner Sue Mee Tauk Martinez of College Place Middle School (right) was presented with her certificate.



Wild Bill Crump... and “Jeep”



Planning has been underway for the annual Memorial Day ceremonies, held every year at the Edmonds Cemetery. The theme chosen for this year is observance of the 75th anniversary of World War II. We expect to honor veterans of that war still among us, as well as those who have since passed on.

One of those to be so honored is a local veteran know to aviators everywhere as “Wild Bill” Crump. Crump flew P-51s among other aircraft and was rather unique in his choice of “co-pilot”, his pet coyote named “Jeep”, adopted as a pup. Crump claimed that Jeep flew five combat missions with him.

As part of the observance the cemetery board asked Mike Reagan to prepare one of his famous sketch portraits. Crump’s family selected the photo of Bill and Jeep from which Reagan prepared the drawing shown here. If you want to know more about Bill Crump, see his web site: <http://wildbillcrump.com/>

Dan White Inducted into OCS Hall of Honor



Post 8870 member Dan White was recognized at the February Post meeting for his appointment to the OCS Hall of Honor. Induction is automatic for any OCS graduate who has received the Medal of Honor or attained general officer rank. Other nominees are selected based on their distinguished service in their civilian and military careers. A computerized kiosk provides photos and biographies of all inductees. Congratulations to Dan.

Dan is a Seattle (and Doe Bay, WA) native. He joined the Army in 1946 and was part of occupation forces in Korea. After he completed Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Ft Sill, OK and Airborne School, he served again in Korea. He became part of the Army Reserve in 1953 and retired as a Colonel in 1989. Awards include a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. Dan received degrees from Western Washington Univ and the UW. He was a teacher and college administrator.

National Legislative Action in Support of Veterans

Representative T.J. Cox (D-CA) recently introduced VFW-supported H.R. 6082, the Forgotten Vietnam Veterans Act. This important legislation would allow veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955, to Feb. 27, 1961, to receive wartime benefits. “More than 3,000 veterans served in Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955, to Feb. 27, 1961, ten of whom were killed in action,” said VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Matthew Doyle. “However, veterans who served in Vietnam prior to Feb. 28, 1961, are not considered wartime veterans and likewise are ineligible for certain VA benefits. The VFW is proud to support this legislation, which would change the statutory definition of Vietnam veteran to include those who served in the Republic of Vietnam beginning on Nov. 1, 1955.

National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz called for “accountability for failure to grant benefits to Vietnam and Post-9/11 veterans suffering from toxic exposures” during a special joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs. The VFW expressed its frustration with the Department of Veterans Affairs’ lack of urgency in providing benefits to individuals who suffer from conditions associated with toxic exposures, especially when there is science to back up veterans’ claims. “The VFW proposes a permanent, comprehensive, and evidence-based framework of granting presumptive benefits for toxic exposure,” said Schmitz. “Veterans who were exposed to burn pits and now suffer from pulmonary conditions and rare cancers should not have to wait decades for benefits – like Vietnam veterans did.” Schmitz reminded committee members that the VFW has led or played a major role in every reform or expansion of veterans benefits since the institution of the VA.

Planning For “Buddy Poppy” Time



While Memorial Day may yet seem way off on the horizon, it is actually just over two months away, so now is the time to start making preparations.

Jr. Vice Commander and Poppy Chair Duane Bowman has made arrangements for a presence at the Mill Creek Central Market once again. It has been a few years since we have been at that location, but it has always been very productive, as well as being a comfortable facility at which to distribute poppies. We would like have tables at each of three doors at that store.

We plan to distribute poppies at QFC on the Speedway in Mukilteo; QFC at Westgate in Edmonds, Fred Meyer on Alderwood Blvd & 164th and at Central Market in downtown Mill Creek. At both QFC stores and at Fred Meyer, we will staff two doors each and at Central Market, three doors. We will work Friday May 22 and Saturday May 23 with two shifts both days at all locations so we need to fill a total of 36 shifts.

We had intended to have sign up sheets at the March meeting to get us started, but with the meeting cancelled, we will obviously need to at least start our sign-up process on line. Hopefully, we will be able to meet together at the Legion Hall in April.

With the shift from West Lynnwood QFC to Central Market, there will be no need for anyone to be out in the rain. We will all be able to be under shelter. Obviously, if too many people sign up at one location, some of us will need to move, so be prepared to be flexible. There will certainly be some of us who are unable to participate fully, so if you can do more than one shift, or can bring spouse, offspring or friends to help, please do so. Contact Duane to let him know your preferences and with any questions: [<dvb@comcast.net>](mailto:dvb@comcast.net) On line sign-ups will be made available as soon as possible.



Brothers Are Everywhere



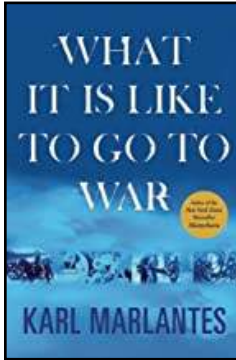
In the past month, your editor found himself undergoing some minor heart surgery at a local hospital. Mine being the first case of the day, I found myself the only patient in the recovery room being cared for by a rather senior, graying male nurse nearing retirement.

Once the fog of anesthesia wore off, the two of us had the better part of an hour before the room got really busy to get acquainted and, of course discovered that we were both veterans. It seems the nurse was a very young Marine in the late days of the Vietnam War, who was in country late in 1972 as a Marine rifleman.

It never fails to amaze how quickly the brotherhood of veterans bond becomes apparent when two veterans meet. As we parted company, and I was thanking my newly found friend for his attentive care, he said: “You know, it is guys like you that led me into this profession”, fellow veterans who need his help. Thanks, Marine.

From the Bookshelf

by Mike Denton

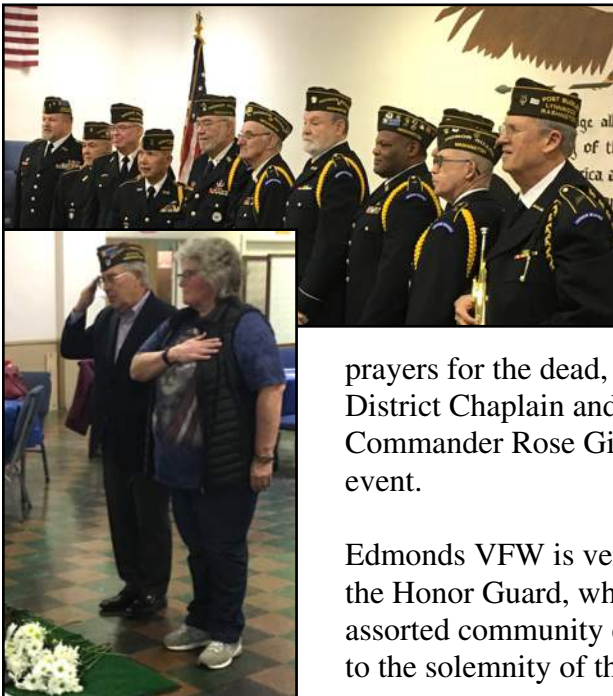


In 1968, at the age of twenty-three, Karl Marlantes was dropped into the highland jungle of Vietnam, an inexperienced lieutenant in command of forty Marines who would live or die by his decisions. In his thirteen-month tour he saw intense combat, killing the enemy and watching friends die. Marlantes survived, but like many of his brothers in arms, he has spent the last forty years dealing with his experiences.

In “What It Is Like to Go to War”, Marlantes takes a candid look at these experiences and critically examines how we might better prepare young soldiers for war. In the past, warriors were prepared for battle by ritual, religion, and literature—which also helped bring them home. While contemplating ancient works from Homer to the Mahabharata, Marlantes writes of the daily contradictions modern warriors are subject to, of being haunted by the face of a young North Vietnamese soldier he killed at close quarters, and of how he finally found a way to make peace with his past. Through it all, he demonstrates just how poorly prepared our nineteen-year-old warriors are for the psychological and spiritual aspects of the journey.

This reader found some of his discussions of ritual, religion and literature a bit overstated, but it is clear that these thought processes and his writing (Marlantes has also written novels about the war) have become Marlantes’ personal way of dealing with his PTSD, perhaps allowing us to overlook a few excesses here and there. Overall, Marlantes expresses his individual view of war and its impact on young warriors well. This is, for the most part a well written book that might be of value to those who have not served, in understanding the vet’s world view.

VFW District 1 Memorial Ceremonies



On February 15, as we do every year around this time, Post officers and members of both VFW and Auxiliary units of District 1 of the Department of Washington joined together for a luncheon and memorial ceremonies at the Post 2100 facility in Everett. These ceremonies, performed to memorialize our comrades who have left us in the past year, include the laying of floral bouquets by the representatives of each Post, the reading of prayers for the dead, as specified in the VFW Manual of Procedure) by our District Chaplain and a rifle salute by the Honor Guard. Post 8870 Commander Rose Gilliland was joined by several other Post officers at the event.

Edmonds VFW is very proud to provide more than our share of members in the Honor Guard, who represent us all a such ceremonies, and at burials and assorted community events where such formal representation adds so much to the solemnity of these events.