

# VFW *The Veterans' Voice*

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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Edmonds VFW Post 8870

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## Memorial Day Poppy Drive Results

*Not our usual, but a good effort*



Adapt and Overcome, pandemic or no, that's what we do.

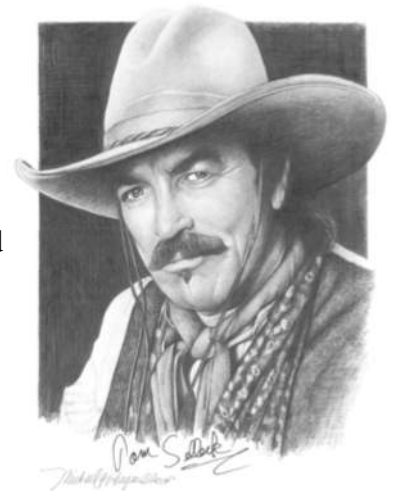
As we discussed at the May Post meeting and also in our last newsletter, we were not able to conduct our usual Memorial Day "Buddy Poppy" drive at the local supermarkets and instead ran a "virtual" drive via internet and social media. Supporters were asked via Facebook, MyEdmondsNews and the Beacon newspapers to donate on line through a link provided in print ads and articles. We very much appreciate the support of our local press and the efforts of members to spread the word on social media.

The result is a total of over \$ 8,000 for our Relief Fund as we go to press. No doubt we are all looking forward to getting out in public again on Veterans Day. In the meantime, we are considering an interim drive to fill in the shortage.

## Mike Reagan Offers Portrait Sale

*to supplement Virtual Poppy Drive*

Our resident portrait artist Mike Reagan has offered to produce four custom portraits, to be sketched from photographs provided as a supplemental fund raiser to benefit the Post 8870 relief fund. He will do four single, one person portraits. The cost is \$500.00 apiece and they will be unframed. Once purchased, the buyer pays VFW in full, the person then has one year to have the art done. As we all know, Reagan, an active member of VFW Post 8870, is the artist behind the Fallen Heroes Project, for which he has produced well over 6,000 portraits of our comrades who were lost in action. You can contact Reagan directly, <https://www.fallenheroesproject.org/> or your editor will be happy to put you in touch. Mike supplied this portrait, one of many he has done for celebrities over the years, as an example of his work.



## May “Virtual” Post Meeting

Once again, our May Post meeting we held as an online affair, via Zoom. We very much appreciate the efforts of Past Commander Jim Traner in setting up these online sessions.



As you all may recall, we began putting our in-person meeting on the Zoom platform for the benefit of some of our “Snow Birds” (think Quartermaster Dennis Peterson) and other Post members who live out of the area, are ill or otherwise unable to attend. Past Commander Fred Apgar has once again been a regular attendee via that platform.

The public portion of the meeting included honoring our one teacher of the year who had been unable to attend the February meeting with the rest of the teachers and student essay winners. Julie Bivens, Who teaches at Serene Lake Elementary in Mukilteo, joined us online to be awarded her certificate and check, which were sent to her by mail. Congratulations Julie! We regret not having a photo. Your editor has since figured out how to grab images off the Zoom session, so we should be able to correct that in future.

## Changes Coming to Heros Cafe

Due to Gov Inslee's Stay at home direction and social distancing proclamations, we must cancel our May, June and July Hero's Cafe gathering. We will let you know when our next Hero's Cafe, Got Your 6, and the newly organized and ready to go Shoreline Hero's Cafe will have their in person veterans and veterans supporters gathering.

- When luncheons are resumed, Hero’s Cafe will gather at the New Life Church Fellowship Hall, 6519 188th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98037.
- The new Got Your Six gatherings will be held at the Edmonds Food Bank at the Edmonds United Methodist Church, 828 Casper St, Edmonds, 98020.
- The inaugural opening of the Shoreline Hero’s Cafe at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1207 N 152nd St, Shoreline 98133 will be announced as available.



The women members of our post are far to few. Thirteen States across the US have passed legislation marking June 12th as #WomenVeteransDay!

## June 6, 2020 marks the 76th Anniversary of D-Day



Code named Operation Overlord, the invasion of a 50 mile stretch of Normandy beaches was conducted by almost 160,000 courageous American, British, and Canadian warriors.

Past Commander Fred Apgar recently reminded us via a Facebook post of the participation of one of our own Post 8870 comrades in the D-Day action 76 years ago.



Fred Diedrich was assigned to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (Red Devil's), part of the 82nd Airborne Division, who jumped behind the lines in Normandy the night before the landings to capture the town of Sainte-Mere Eglise, secure crossings at the Merderet River laFiere

and Chef-du-Pont, and to establish a defensive line along the river crossings.



We have told Fred's story in detail in recent prior editions of this newsletter, which you can find on the Post website, but it seemed important to mention his role again on this anniversary month of those events, as we approach Diedrich's 97th birthday.

The Two Freds at a Post meeting some years past.

## Remembering Buck



Mike Reagan recently finished this portrait of Buck Weaver, showing him from a photo in recent years and in the cockpit of his P-39 in the South Pacific. Buck's war history was shared recently following his death.

## Carl Kurfuss' POW Trivia

### A different type of Cold War

Project Iceworm was the code name for a top-secret United States Army program during the Cold War to build a network of mobile nuclear missile launch sites under the Greenland ice sheet. The ultimate objective of placing medium-range missiles under the ice — close enough to strike targets within the Soviet Union — was kept secret from the Danish government. To study the feasibility of working under the ice, a highly publicized "cover" project, known as Camp Century, was launched in 1960. Unsteady ice conditions within the ice sheet caused the project to be canceled in 1966.



The "official purpose" of Camp Century, as explained by the United States Department of Defense to Danish government officials in 1960, was to test various construction techniques under Arctic conditions, explore practical problems with a semi-mobile nuclear reactor, as



well as supporting scientific experiments on the icecap. A total of 21 trenches were cut and covered with arched roofs within which prefabricated buildings were erected. With a total length of 3,000 meters (1.9 mi), these tunnels also contained a hospital, a shop, a theater and a church. The total number of inhabitants was around 200. From 1960 until 1963 the electricity supply was provided by means of the world's first mobile/portable nuclear reactor, designated the PM-2A and designed by Alco for the U.S. Army. Water was supplied by melting glaciers and tested to determine whether germs such as the plague were present.



Reports from VFW National

### VFW Remains Staunch Advocate of Equality

The Veterans of Foreign Wars stands for equality, inclusivity and diversity. No matter race, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation, it is our duty as an organization to advocate for our employees, members, fellow veterans, service members and military families who may face systematic injustices. We owe this to every man and woman who dedicated their lives to selflessly defending our great nation, and in fact, every American who should reap the equal benefits of their service. As a nation, we should all be outraged and heartbroken over the tragic and senseless loss of human life. America must live up to its ideals and the fundamental truth that all human beings are created equal. The only way this can be accomplished is for our nation to continue its work to strive for the unity of all people with different backgrounds into a single nation of equal justice