



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

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# *The Veterans' Voice*

**Edmonds VFW Post 8870**

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## **9/11 - 19 Years Later - Never Forget**

Annual Remembrance Held Virtually



World Trade Center Tower Two is Struck on 9/11



The Edmonds 9/11 Memorial contains the remains of a World Trade Center beam

Last Friday, Sept. 11, 2020 marked the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that changed America forever. The memories of that day are still vivid and raw in our nation's heart, but the heroism that emerged from the rubble of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in the air above a rural Pennsylvania field, should inspire Americans for generations to come. As we remember 9/11 and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost that terrible day, the VFW and Edmonds Post 8870, hope all Americans pause and reflect on those we lost and those who continue to sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

As time has passed, an entire generation of Americans has been born and grown nearly to adulthood who have no memory of that day. It is the duty of those of us who do remember to ensure that it is not forgotten.

Because of the Covid pandemic, our annual gathering at the Edmonds downtown fire station was substituted with a virtual ceremony. If you missed the virtual memorial ceremony, which was broadcast on Facebook, follow this link to view the recorded event:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCountyFire/videos/876484326218929>

## Another “Virtual” Post Meeting



As we continue moving through the Covid nightmare of 2020, another virtual post meeting was held on August 20. Fifteen members of our Post attended via the “Zoom” online platform. Joshua Schreck, Dept. Chief of Staff and State Parliamentarian, of Renton Post 1263, visited from Department HQ.

If you have yet to log on for our Zoom based Post meeting, please try to join us for September. Access can be had via the Zoom link sent out by Jim Traner via email. If you experience technical issues, call or email Jim or your Commander (or your editor for that matter) and we will do our best to help you get on. We hope to see more of you for September. Most any desktop computer, iPad or smart phone with an internet connection is capable of accessing the software.

Since we began the Zoom connection, broadcasting our meetings on line, Past Commander Fred Apgar has been one of our members notable for his regular attendance.

Among other items of business, efforts to get the word out on the 2020-21 Essay contests and Voice of Democracy were discussed, as well as Teacher of the Year and Safety awards. The pandemic is making those programs particularly challenging this year.

You will find plans for fund raising and membership drives discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Post Surgeon Jay Hansen summarized members’ activities in veteran and public service for the month of July. Some of us, particularly members who are part of the Honor Guard and, as always, resident sketch artist Mike Reagan continue to be active.

Virtual meetings will continue until health authorities allow gatherings of more than 25 members and until our members feel comfortable with meeting in person. Your command staff has been making this decision month to month, watching developments and keeping in mind the average age and vulnerability of our membership.



## Our Post Needs Operating Funds -Can You Help?

Most of you are no doubt aware that the Post keeps its operating funds strictly separate from our Relief Fund, as is required by our charter and by-laws. Money donated through our Buddy Poppy program cannot be spent on Post operations.

While our operating costs are modest (thanks in no small part to the generosity of our brother American Legion Post, who provide our meeting space) they are ongoing and over the course of the year add up. July expenses included the semiannual fee for our Post Office Box, postage itself, insurance, the security bond for our command staff and web site expenses.

If a few members and friends could make a donation to our general fund, any amount would help, (\$ 25, \$50, \$100... whatever you can do) our bank balance can return to health. Just make the check out to VFW Post 8870, mark it for general fund and mail to VFW Post 88780, PO Box 701, Edmonds, WA 98020.

## Buddy Poppies & Other Fund Raising Ideas



Veterans Day is moving in on the horizon and our semi-annual “Buddy Poppy” drive along with it. Once again, as with Memorial Day, the Covid pandemic will preclude our presence at the local supermarkets to distribute Poppies. Our virtual Poppy Drive was surprisingly successful in May for Memorial Day and we expect to revisit that effort for Veterans Day, beginning early in October.

You can all help by sharing our promotional materials on your own social media and encouraging your friends and family to donate. All of the recipients of our Relief fund will continue to need our support and that of our community.

An additional fund raising project, involving the online public auction of some of Mike Reagan’s celebrity sports figure sketches, is in the planning stages. We will have more information on that project soon. Stay tuned.

## Commander Rose Receives Awards at District Event



The annual District 1 School of Instruction was held on Sept. 12 at the Post 2100 hall in Everett. In the photo above above left, Edmonds Post 8870 Commander Rose Gilliland receives individual category award certificates from District Commander Otis Wolfe. These awards recognize the efforts of the members of our post over the 2019-20 VFW year.

At right, Department of Washington Commander Traci

Williams, accompanied by Past Commander John Rust have just presented Commander Gilliland with the “White Hat” of an All State Post Commander, which is worn on behalf of the entire post’s efforts during her first year as commander. We were very close to making “All American Post” status last year, coming just a bit short in the new member recruitment category. Congratulations are in order to Commander Rose and the entire membership on a very successful year, under trying circumstances!

## Past Commander Fred Apgar checks off bucket list item ...from a perfectly good airplane!



*Despite having moved to the other side of the country, Past Commander Fred Apgar continues to keep his VFW membership at Edmonds Post 9/11. Fred regularly attends Post meetings on Zoom, even when we have in-person meetings. Fred posted this report recently on Facebook:*

“Yesterday, (Sept 6) I crossed off another adventure from my bucket list. I drove to Statesboro, a town about an hour’s drive from Savannah. My destination was the Jumping Place, a drop zone and sky diving center at the Bulloch County Airport. In tandem, I jumped out of a perfectly good airplane and enjoyed nearly ten minutes of thrills and pure adventure. Casey was my TI (Tandem Instructor), he has made more than 7,000 jumps, and he was terrific. We exited the plane at an elevation of 11,500 feet and free fell for about a minute before the chute was deployed (it was my job to pull the cord, but I was so excited, I forgot to do it), and we enjoyed about eight minutes in the air on our descent. The parachute was incredibly easy to steer, and on our descent we did some acrobatics before we made a soft landing on our butts.”



### **September is Suicide Prevention Month.**

The VFW remains dedicated to raising awareness, improving research and breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health. We’re proud to announce the fifth annual “A Day to Change Direction” will take place Sept. 19. As brothers and sisters-in-arms, we have an obligation to ensure every veteran receives the help and support they need. [Click here](#) for more information on how you can get involved.