



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**March 2022 - Vol. 19 No.15**

# **The Veterans' Voice**

**Edmonds VFW Post 8870**

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

Commander Carl Kurfess  
commander@vfw8870.org

Newsletter Editor, Mike Denton, mikedenton44@gmail.com

## **Post Calendar**

Staff Meeting: First Wed., **4:30 PM American Legion Hall (or online via Zoom)**

Post Meetings: Third Wed., **6:00 PM American Legion Hall (or online via Zoom)**

Post Auxiliary Meeting: (Questions: call or email Jo Boyett, 206-818-4212, joaboyett@cs.com)

**Post meetings are again being held in person at the  
Edmonds American Legion Hall (or online via "Zoom")**

(Look for invitations with the link from which to join the meeting via Zoom in your email.)

**Next Post Meeting Wednesday April 20, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM**

**(Yes, we are once again serving supper!)**

## **March Post Meeting**

No speaker having been scheduled for the March meeting, Commander Kurfess went straight to our business meeting. Aside from the usual officers reports, during which everything was reported to be in order, considerable time was devoted to planning for Buddy Poppy distribution for Memorial Day, as well as our participation in the Memorial Day observance at the cemetery (we are also planning a brief event at the Veterans Plaza, after the Cemetery ceremonies) We also briefly discussed logistics for resuming our participation in the "Edmonds Kind of 4th" celebration.



We were pleasantly surprised to find Past Commander Fred Apgar attending in person and as you can see from the photo, Fred was kind enough to fill the Jr Vice Commander Chair for Past Commander Rose Gilliland who was unable to attend.

Despite living now in Savannah, GA, Fred frequently attends our Post meetings via Zoom, regularly contributes book reviews of interest to this newsletter and in many ways is a more active member than some local residents.

Always good to see you, Sir!



**In Memoriam  
Scott L. Johnson  
1944-2022**



Our Charter will be draped for our comrade, 8870 member Scott Johnson. Scott was born on June 2, 1944 to Larry and Barbara (Bryson) Johnson. He graduated from John Muir High School in 1962. Scott went on to serve in the Navy as a Seaman on the USS Forster, DER334 during the Vietnam War and was a decorated veteran. He went on to receive degrees from San Diego State University and a JD from Southwestern Law School. While he practiced law for the rest of his career, his passion was in real estate

development and he was a successful businessman.

On February 12, 1972, Scott married the love of his life, Kay Knuppel. They raised three children, Kelly, Christine and Brian, in Corralitos,

California after moving from Los Angeles. Scott and Kay also lived in Las Vegas, Nevada for several years and then moved to Edmonds, Washington in their retirement.



**USS Forster, DER 334**

## **Election of Post Officers**

At the Post meeting on April 20, elections will be held for our Post officer slate for the 2022-23 VFW year commencing July 1.

**The following candidates are proposed by the nominating committee:**

Commander: Carl F. Kurfess  
Sr. Vice Commander: Duane Bowman  
Jr. Vice Commander: Rose Gilliland  
Quartermaster: Cal Barnard  
Chaplain: Dan Doyle  
1st Year Trustee: Kerry Watkins  
2nd Year Trustee: Donald Stapleton  
3rd Year Trustee: Mike Denton

All of these candidates are presently serving in these positions with the exception of Cal Barnard, who is running to replace long time Quartermaster Dennis Peterson, who wished to pass the baton after something close to ten years of service.

**Edmonds Beach Clean-up**  
*Post 8870's VFW Day of Service, followed by:*  
**A Birthday Party!**



Saturday, May 7 is VFW National Day of Service. At the March Staff meeting, it was decided that our service will be a beach clean up at the Marina Beach Park on the Edmonds waterfront. We will commence at 0900 and should wrap up well before noon. Please join us for this community service event. Family and friends are welcome to help.

**And then:**

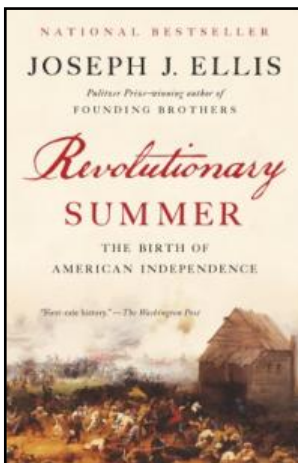
Following the VFW Day of Service event, all are invited to a Birthday Open House for Mike Reagan's 75th Birthday, at the American Legion Hall, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm!

The host of this event is the Washington State Gold Star Mothers. Stop by for cake and to wish Mike a Happy Birthday!

**From the Bookshelf**  
*by Mike Denton*

**Revolutionary Summer: *The Birth of American Independence***

A distinctive portrait of the crescendo moment in American history from the Pulitzer-winning American historian, Joseph Ellis.



The summer months of 1776 witnessed the most consequential events in the story of our country's founding. While the thirteen colonies came together and agreed to secede from the British Empire, the British were dispatching the largest armada ever to cross the Atlantic to crush the rebellion in the cradle. The Continental Congress and the Continental Army were forced to make decisions on the run, improvising as history congealed around them. Ellis meticulously examines the most influential figures in this propitious moment, including George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Britain's Admiral Lord Richard and General William Howe. He weaves together the political and military experiences as two sides of a single story, and shows how events on one front influenced outcomes on the other.



# Memorial Day Buddy Poppies

*May 26-27*



We have confirmation from the stores of the availability of their facilities to distribute Buddy Poppies for Memorial Day. We will try to man two stations at each of four store locations between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28. The stores will be the QFCs at Westgate in Edmonds and the Mukilteo Speedway location; the Fred Meyer at 164th & Alderwood Mall Blvd in North Lynnwood and the Town & Country Market (formerly Central Market in Mill Creek).

Please sign up with Sr. Vice Commander and Poppy Chair Duane Bowman at the April Post meeting, or email him with your desired location and shifts ([dvbow@comcast.net](mailto:dvbow@comcast.net)). You may be asked to take shifts at a different time or place, depending on our staffing needs. Here is an example of a sign-up sheet/schedule.

**Details are the same for each location:**

**QFC Speedway  
Mukilteo  
Friday 5/27/22  
1000 to 1400**

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**Friday 5/27/22  
1400 to 1700**

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**QFC Speedway  
Mukilteo  
Saturday 5/28/22  
1000 to 1400**

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**Saturday 5/28/22  
1400 to 1700**

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## Beware of VA Claim Sharks:

Have you been charged unnecessary fees to file a VA disability claim? The VFW reported in the June/July 2021 issue of the *VFW* magazine that predatory companies, referred to as “claim sharks,” coach veterans in filing VA disability claims with promises of increased ratings while charging them fees and taking a portion of their compensation. Veterans service organizations like the VFW have accredited service officers who provide claims assistance to veterans free of charge, as is the law. If you or someone you know has been charged unnecessary fees for VA claims assistance, please contact the VFW at [vwac@vfw.org](mailto:vwac@vfw.org), or contact your Post Service Officer. Alden Gilliland. (*Note: We have published this info before, but VFW National has put the notice out once again this month. They want us all aware of the problem*)

## Do You Have Your VFW Jacket?

A few years ago, the Post established a standard “uniform” jacket for members to wear to identify with VFW. In these photos, Post members Dan Doyle & Jim Maurdock are seen wearing their jackets



at a cold November “Buddy Poppy” outing. The jacket itself is a black “Squall” style. The VFW logo is available as a patch to sew on, with VFW Post 8870 Edmonds, WA and the individual’s name added in embroidery.

The Post has purchased a small supply of VFW, U.S. flag, and POW/MIA patches, which are available to members. Patches are also available from the VFW Store online and can be found on

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Members are free to add patches and embroidery to reflect their individual units, specialties, awards and service branch as they wish.

For those who prefer a garment “Made in USA” the one vendor we are aware of is “King Louie America”. Less pricey imports (the price difference can be 40% or more) are also available from such sources as Lands End, LL Bean, Aramark Uniform and Baseball Epic Sports. Jackets can be ordered from any of these suppliers online.

Previously, we have used a Mukilteo source called “Shirts Illustrated” for both embroidery and patch sewing. They are located at 12315 Mukilteo Speedway, Suite J, (425)742-3844. They are open 9 am to 6 pm, Monday - Friday. No doubt others are available, but this outlet is nearby and experienced with our needs.



## Join us for the kickoff mixer

(learn something new, meet someone new, and make a difference)

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Salish Sea Boathouse Taproom 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

180 W Dayton St, Suite 102, Edmonds, WA 98020

**Nino Gray, Jr**, Seattle Seahawks Community Engagement Manager/Veteran will be the speaker to share how Seahawks Task Force 12 is supporting our local Military Family Community. **Appetizers to be provided.**

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**Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Edmonds Food Bank 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

828 Caspers St. L100, Edmonds, WA 98020

**Shellie Willis**, Founder of Redefining You Foundation, Veteran and TEDx Speaker/Author will be the speaker to share her journey after active duty.

Coffee and baked treats 10:30 AM | Lunch at 11:45 AM | Speaker at 12:00 PM

We will be having different speakers and topics each month to connect our Military, Veteran and Civilian Community. Location and time may vary.

Sign up to receive notices of all events. <https://operationmilitaryfamily.com/sign-up-for-updates/>

*DID YOU KNOW is a collaboration between Edmonds Food Bank and Operation Military Family*