



The Veterans' Voice

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

April, 2022 - Vol. 19 No.11

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

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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 May 18, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM

(Yes, we are once again serving supper!)

Important Events Coming up! The busy month of May

Our calendar is a busy one for the Memorial Day weekend period. We begin, of course, with our semi-annual Buddy Poppy distribution at our local grocery stores, which will begin on the morning of Friday, May 27 and proceed through Saturday, May 28. We could certainly use more of you to participate. It is this simple, the more poppies we hand out, the more money we bring in for our

Veterans Relief Fund. It is a very rewarding experience, with lots of folks expressing their gratitude and recognizing our service, so come out and help. If you can't give us a full day, work half a day. If half a day is not possible, come for a couple of hours. (We will have rain shelter at all locations)



On Memorial Day itself, (Monday May 30) we need a few hands to move flags for the ceremonies at the cemetery and the Veterans Plaza. Please meet at the Legion Hall at 8:30 if you can help with that duty.

We should meet at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery at 10:30 for the 11:00am ceremonies there and will then move on to the Edmonds Veterans Plaza for a short observance at that location, to begin at 1:00pm

Wear your cover and join us to remember our fallen comrades.



VFW Conducts Flag Ceremony at Senior Center Ribbon Cutting



On Thursday, May 12, members of The VFW Honor Guard were joined by Commander Carl Kurfess, Past Commander Mike Denton and Post member Charlie Gaul to conduct the initial flag ceremony at the ribbon cutting ceremonies of the Edmonds Waterfront Center, on Railroad Ave. You may recall that the flagpole was funded by our Post, two other veterans organizations and some individual donations. It is dedicated to honor all veterans.

The Honor Guard members present included our own Surgeon, Bryan Rowe and post member Gerald Burton, as well as one other from Lynnwood.

Prior to the posting of the colors, bagpiper Patrick Downing set the mood with his rendition of America the Beautiful. (We are assured that the National Anthem is just not possible on bagpipe!)

May Post Meeting

The Post meeting of May 18 will be preceded by a dinner at 5pm, featuring lasagna!

The meeting will start at 6pm as usual. We will have our Freedom scholarship winners present to be recognized and the business meeting to follow will feature the annual installation of post officers for the coming 2022-23 VFW Year. Memorial Day observance plans will also be on the agenda.

Post Election Report

Commander	Carl 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	Don Stapleton
3rd year Trustee	Mike Denton

Appointed by the Commander

Adjutant	Nathan Wortinger
Service Officer	Alden Gilliland
Judge Advocate	Jim Traner
Surgeon	Bryan Rowe

Freedom Scholarship Winners

Post 8870 sponsors the Freedom Scholarship for deserving seniors who will be enrolling full time in an accredited vocational, technical school, college or university in the fall semester and who have parents and/or grandparents who are US military veterans. The \$ 1500 scholarship shall be paid directly to the student's school account to help defray tuition costs, fees and expenses.

On the following pages, you will find the students' essays which were submitted with their applications.



Hazel Warner

Meadowdale H.S. Freedom Scholarship Winner

Ms. Warner plans to enroll at either the University of Washington, or
The University of California Berkeley

Going into my junior year of high school I had never resonated with the importance of the Constitution. Of course, I had learned about it in history classes over the years and knew that it was an important document, but I had not come to terms with how relevant it truly is to the current day, and how closely it connects to the idea of freedom. This all changed when I watched the Broadway production of Hamilton when it came out on Disney+.

I absolutely fell in love with the ideas of hope, hard work, and freedom that were demonstrated throughout the play. It was the first time I could see the ideas of the constitution relating to my own life and see that anyone can rise up, make a name for themselves, and make a positive difference in their community. I have worked really hard in the past four years to do the same through my involvement in school activities with the hope of bettering my school and community. I have had the freedom to make a difference in the lives of others and have worked to inspire those around me to do the same.

Not only has my dad worked to better the communities that we are a part of every day by teaching and coaching at my school, but he also volunteered to better the entire country. I am so proud to be the daughter of a veteran and he has taught me why freedom is necessary and valued in our society. Freedom is not a given for many people around the world and I am grateful for the opportunity to grow and learn in a supportive environment that has allowed me to give back and be a part of something that is greater than myself.

For the next four years, I will be attending either the University of Washington or the University of California, Berkeley, where I plan to do exactly that-- be a part of something that is greater than myself. I think there is true freedom in that and I am grateful for that my Dad's sacrifice so I can have these incredible opportunities.



Christiana Burkhalter

Kamiak H.S. Freedom Scholarship Winner

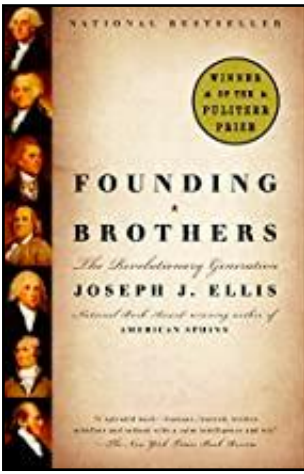
Ms. Burkhalter will enroll at Washington State University

By definition, freedom is the power or right to act, think, or speak what one wants. But does this really define what freedom is? To me, freedom is being able to not feel neglected when speaking one's feelings. To me, freedom is giving everyone the opportunity to live their life to its fullest potential. To me, freedom is a priority here in the United States.

While living in the states, it is difficult to recognize the amount of freedom we have compared to other countries. Other countries face struggles of freedom in the forms of religion, protests, and voicing one's thoughts. For example, many countries force their citizens to be devoted to a specific religion. Unlike these countries, I have never once felt forced to be a part of a specific religion nor have I feared to speak. The United States encourages freedom in the forms of religion, peaceful assembly, and speech. These rights are stated clearly in the Constitution as the First Amendment.

Freedom is not only established in the Constitution but also in everyday life. The United States allows everyone, including immigrants, the equal opportunity of a job and a new life. I have lived in a welcoming community my entire life which has enabled me to feel safe and comfortable speaking my mind. During the Black Lives Matter movement, my city peacefully assembled a protest walking down the speedway. This not only gained more awareness but it also would not have been possible without our right to do so.

As a citizen, I do not feel restricted to try new things or voice my opinion on a topic. Freedom is a natural human right that should never be overlooked. No one should feel forced to become someone or be a part of something they are not. This is why I am grateful to be a citizen of the United States.



From the Book Shelf

by Fred Apgar

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation

By Joseph J. Ellis

The 1790's were the most decisive decade in American history, and a collection of the greatest American statesmen came together to define our republic and direct its course through what would prove to be turbulent times. Their presence and participation in our fledgling government held the country together until a national identity was established and a new social and political order took root.

Ellis provides readers with insight into the intertwining lives of seven of our founding fathers; Aaron Burr, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington through a discussion of six critical episodes in our nation's history. Thoroughly researched, the book provides a lively narrative of events during the 1790's and beyond.

The book includes, among other topics, a lengthy discussion of the debate of our founding fathers regarding the issue of slavery. Ultimately, the failure to reach a compromise on that issue, left it for future generations.

Trivia

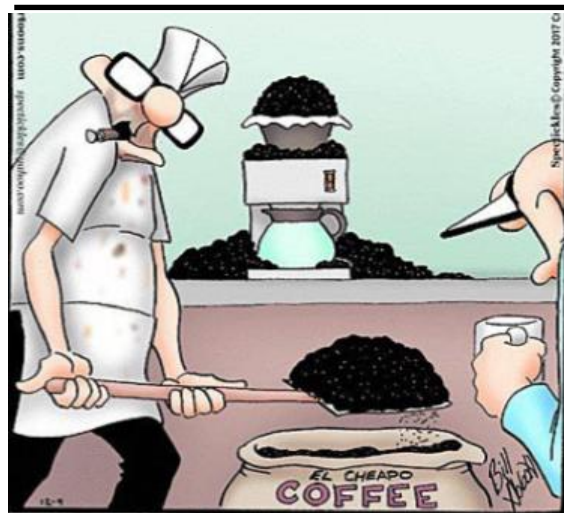
with thanks to Carl Kurfess



By the time of World War II, American servicemen were consuming 32.5 pounds of coffee per capita, per year, with the Army Quartermaster Corps going so far as to roast, grind, vacuum pack and ship its own beans overseas. Meanwhile, legend has it that when soldiers in Italy encountered espresso, they watered it down to make a concoction similar to the coffee they drank at home. There are many competing accounts, but some people surmise that these were the humble beginnings of the drink we now know as an "Americano."

In Vietnam, soldiers and Marines would burn C4 explosive to make their coffee in the jungle. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army and Air Force Exchange System (AAFES) had Green Beans coffee stands so servicemen and women could get their espresso and Frappuccino fix.

and then, there's Navy coffee:



'Where'd I learn to make coffee? Navy. Why?'