



The Veterans' Voice

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

May, 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!)

April Post Meeting

Freedom Scholarship Winners Feted

At the April Post meeting, our Freedom Scholarship winners attended with members of their families and each read her essay for the assembled membership. (Both essays were published in last month's newsletter.)

The photo below at left shows Christiana Burkhalter of Kamiak High School in Mukilteo reading her essay and at right, Hazel Warner of Meadowdale High School, appears holding her certificate of award. Congratulations once again to both of these young women!



2022-23 Post Officers Installed

The business session of the Post meeting, was attended by District Commander Otis Wolf, who acted as the installing officer, swearing in the 2022-23 Post officers.

As announced in the April newsletter, all of our 2021-22 elected officers were re-elected with the exception of Cal Barnard, who is succeeding our long time Quartermaster, Dennis Peterson. Dennis has chosen to “retire” from that important Post job. Please join us in thanking Dennis for his long service to the post!

You will find a full list of officers in the election reports on the post web site: www.vfw8870.org.

Memorial Day “Buddy Poppy” Distribution



On Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, veterans of both VFW Post 8870 and American Legion Post 66 handed out “Buddy Poppies” at three store locations;

QFC in Edmonds, QFC Mukilteo and Town & Country Market in Mill Creek. In spite of the help of some family members and others, we were unable to muster sufficient personnel to staff the fourth and fifth stores we have worked in the past.

In spite of this reduction in manpower and reaching fewer stores, we had an excellent weekend of fund raising, bringing in a total of \$14,091.16 to bolster our Relief Fund. While this number is considerably short of our record highs of the past, (over \$18,000 for Veterans Day 2019) it is still satisfying to be able to get back out there after these past two years of Covid restrictions.

The public was most welcoming, offering profuse thanks for our service and recognizing the sacrifice of our comrades who never made it home.

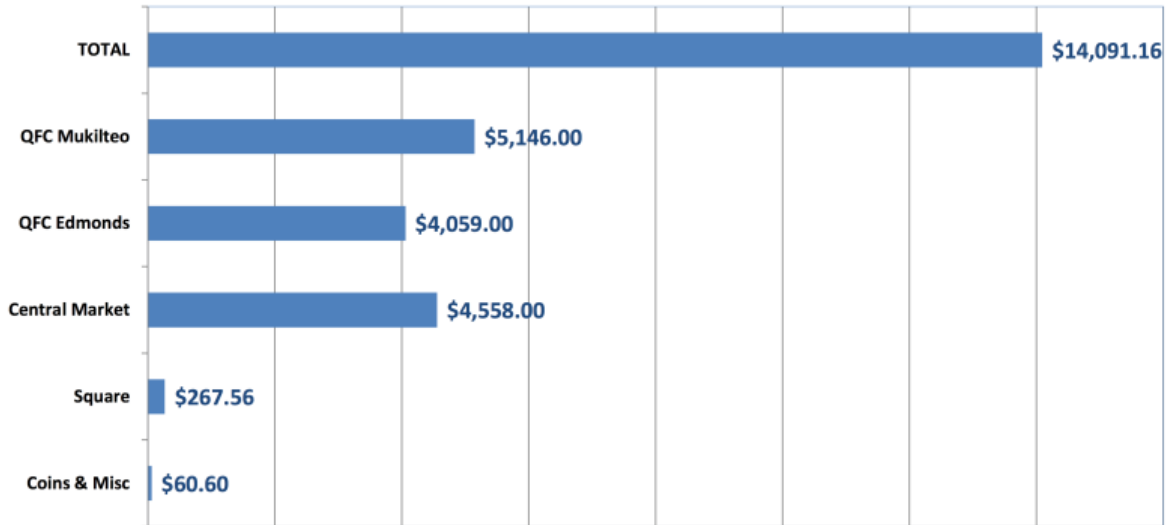
For those of you who were unable to help at the stores:

An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$1,500.00 in Relief Fund donations from members in lieu of such participation. If you would like to participate in that offer, which we hope would raise an additional \$3,000.00, send

your check to the Post PO Box, or go on the donation page of the website. Be sure to note on your check, or online donation, that it is for the Relief Fund matching program. On the following page is a chart of the weekend results by store.



Memorial Day Poppy Revenues by Location



Memorial Day at the Edmonds Cemetery

The traditional Memorial Day observance at the Edmonds Cemetery drew an estimated 200 attendees. “The Edmonds Cemetery is the final resting place to approximately 600 veterans dating back to the Civil War,” began Cemetery Board Member Jerry Janacek as he welcomed attendees. Janacek’s remarks were followed by a presentation of the colors by members of the Edmonds VFW Post 8870, the Pledge of Allegiance led by a contingent of Girl Scouts, singing of “The Star Spangled Banner” by David Little, and a bagpipe rendition of “Grand Old Flag” by piper Jan Begg.



In his invocation, Pastor Barry Crane of Edmonds’ North Sound Church reminded attendees that “though we come from many races and religion, we are all Americans, and we realize that freedom is not free.” Crane was followed by the North Sound Singers under the direction of Allan Skoog singing “America the Beautiful.”

Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson spoke briefly, noting that Arlington National Cemetery was created in the wake of the Civil War, a war that saw “the greatest loss of life of any of America’s armed conflicts.”

Keynote speaker was Monica McNeal, president of American Gold Star Mothers for Washington, Alaska and Oregon, a group of mothers who lost a son or daughter while in service to their country. Monica spoke about the loss of her son, Lance Cpl. Eric Levi Ward, killed in action in Afghanistan on Feb. 21, 2010.

Since then, she has dedicated herself to honoring Eric’s service and that of others who continue to serve. Eric now rests in Arlington National Cemetery. “The true cost of war is not the trillions of dollars, but in young lives like Eric’s,” she concluded. “Some gave all; all gave some. God bless America.”



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Navy Lt. Lisa Nenno, who served as a trauma nurse was moved by the ceremonies.

McNeal was followed by Mike Denton of VFW Post 8870, with the missing man table ceremony in memory of those who remain missing in action. Next was the ship’s bell ceremony officiated by VFW Post 8870 Commander Carl Kurfess, who read off the names of Snohomish County service members who died in Iran and Afghanistan. Kurfess was assisted by Vietnam veteran John Shelton, who rang the bell as each name was read.



The ceremonies ended with “God Bless America” by the North Sound Singers, the benediction by Pastor Barry Crane, taps and a rendition of “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes.

Excerpted from story & photos by Larry Vogel, MyEdmondsNews

Memorial Day at Edmonds Veterans Plaza

Local veterans gathered at Edmonds’ Veterans Plaza Monday afternoon to honor their fallen comrades in a short ceremony.

Ron Clyborne, a Vietnam veteran, spoke about the efforts to create the memorial plaza dedicated to



veterans, starting with a vision nine years ago followed by planning, fundraising and construction. Edmonds’ Veterans Plaza officially opened **on Memorial Day 2017**.



In her remarks, Edmonds City Council President and U.S. Air Force veteran Vivian Olson pointed to the myriad heroes giving back to Edmonds every day through arts, charities and service. She also spoke about the fragility of democracy, underscored by the current conflict in Ukraine.

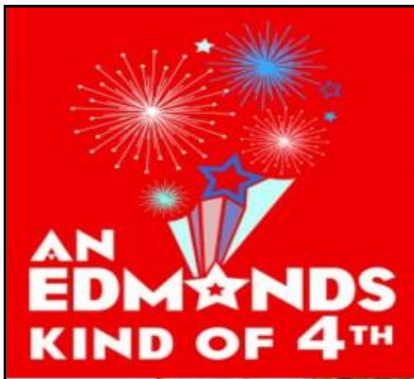


Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson offered thanks to those attending for their service.

At the end of the event, Vietnam veterans Mike Reagan — founder of the **Fallen Heroes Project** — and Duane Bowman distributed

pins to families of those veterans whose loved ones came home from Vietnam, and buttons to those Vietnam vets who served when called to duty.





The annual “Edmonds Kind of 4th” Parade returns this year and with it the VFW/American Legion picnic/barbecue following. Transportation will be available for veterans who are unable to walk the parade route and we are looking for a big turnout for this event.

We will meet at 6th & Bell in downtown Edmonds at 11:30am to form up for the parade which starts at 12:00 noon. The parade follows its usual route through downtown Edmonds. We will again hand out small flags along the way,

Following the parade, at 1:00pm we will gather at the Legion Hall for our picnic. The Posts will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, and we ask members attending to bring a side dish/potluck item to share.

Please notify Commander Carl of what you will provide for the picnic, so we

know what to expect. (commander@vfw8870.org.) Hopefully, many of you will have signed up at the Post meeting on Wednesday June 15.

Following are items needed:

- Fried Chicken 25
- Cheese 69 slices
- Sliced & diced onions enough for 60 burgers
- Tomatoes, lettuce enough for 60 burgers
- Catsup, mustard, relish & mayo 1 large container of each
- Pickles
- Green Salads w/dressing x4 to serve 10 ea
- Potato Salad x4 to serve 10 ea
- Ice 4 bags
- Chips x2 2 large bags
- Cookies
- Pies
- Regular Coke/Pepsi/ Dr Pepper 2 doz
- Napkins 100
- Plastic spoons, kives, forks 100
- Paper Plates 100

