



# The Veterans' Voice

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

June, 2022 - Vol. 19 No.12

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## Post Calendar

Staff Meeting: First Wed., **5.00 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 - 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 July 20, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM**

## June Post Meeting

Much of the June meeting was devoted to planning for coming summer activities, including the Edmonds Kind of 4th parade for which VFW Post 8870 and American Legion Post 66 have performed lead color guard duties for many years. A full report with all available photos will be published in the July issue of this newsletter in the coming weeks.



In addition to the parade planning which follows the



outline laid out in the May issue. Return of our annual joint picnic/barbecue was also planned.

Several of our staff, including Commander Carl Kurfess and Adjutant Jim Traner (who also serves as a Department Trustee, were to attend the Department of Washington Convention, which was held in Spokane this year. Those attending act as our Post delegates for the purpose of electing Department staff for the coming year and other official business.

## **June Post Meeting - *continued***

### **Other Summer activities - Edmonds Summer Market**

We want to hold one or more recruiting events (and Poppy distributions) at the Edmonds Summer Market sometime in the August-October timeline. We should be firming those plans up at the July Post meeting and will need your support. Stay tuned for further details.

You will notice in the photo at lower right on page one, the presence of a new speakersystem, for which Commander Carl received purchase approval at the May meeting. We have a number of members who have hearing challenges (most vets do to some degree, especially those of us who served before the days of hearing protection devices. (Those weapons are loud!) The new system is providing better amplification of speakers during meetings.

### **Post Officer Changes**

**Cal Barnard, our elected Quartermaster, has been asked to take over as Adjutant by the commander. He has accepted that appointed position and has resigned as our elected Quartermaster. We will elect a new Quartermaster at the July post meeting.**



A monthly meet up to connect military, veteran and civilian cultures. Speakers each month share knowledge. Learn something, meet someone new and make a difference.

Watch for a review of the upcoming July 13 event, to be held at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza, announced earlier via email.

The next event will be on August 10 at the Edmonds Food Bank, 828 Caspers St, from 10:30 to 12:30 PM and will feature a panel of Veteran Services, including Lori Tiffin, YMCA, Shawnee Baza, Dept of Veteran Affairs and James Armstrong of Workforce and DVA.

Coffee and baked treats at 10:30; Lunch at 11:45, speaker at 12:00 PM.

*Did You Know?* is a collaboration of Edmonds Food Bank and Operation Military Families.

## VFW Remembers Woody Williams

The VFW is mourning the loss of the last living WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams, who passed away at the age of 98. After WWII, he continued to serve the veteran community through his work at VA, his nonprofit the Woody Williams Foundation, and his tireless advocacy efforts for Gold Star families. Williams was a Gold Legacy member of VFW Post 7048, which bears his name, located in Fairmont, West Virginia.

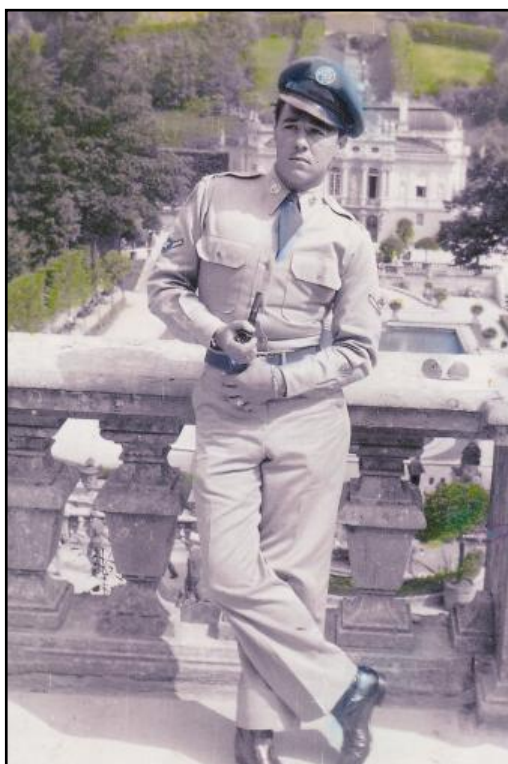
“On behalf of the entire 1.5 million-member VFW family, our deepest condolences go out to Woody’s entire family, and we salute one of the last greatest of the ‘Greatest Generation,’” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic.

The youngest of 11 children, Woody was born on a dairy farm in Quiet Dell, West Virginia, on October 2, 1923. He continued to serve following WWII and retired from the Marine Corps after 17 years of service, with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.

During WWII, Woody served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and Guam before landing in Iwo Jima where his "valiant devotion to duty" earned him the Medal of Honor. It was presented to him by President Harry Truman in a ceremony at the White House on October 5, 1945.



## Do You Recognize this Young Airman?



From time to time we are able to get our hands on photos of Post comrades from their days of active service, giving us a glimpse of the young service members we once were.

This photograph of Les Abel is dated, Les tells us, from 1951, when he was a young Airman stationed in Germany for a then even younger USAF.

Les has been a very active member of VFW Post 8870 for many years and in recent years has been the perennial Commander of American Legion Post 66.

Hey, we’d recognize Les anywhere!

## 2022-23 Dept. of Washington Commander Sworn In



2022-23 Department of Washington Commander Paul Herrera  
Herrera is an Army veteran from Post 2224 in Puyallup.

VFW Department of Washington 2022-23 Officers were elected at the State Convention in Spokane in June. Here is a list of the principal command staff. A complete list of all elected and appointed officers can be found on the Department of Washington web site. <https://vfwwa.org/>

Paul Herrera, Commander - Army, Post 2224, Puyallup  
Craig Dougherty, Sr. Vice Commander - Army - Post 6785, Kent  
Perry Taylor, Jr. Vice Commander- Navy- Post 7392, Oak Harbor  
Fred Green, State Adjutant, Quartermaster - Navy - Post 9430, Seattle  
Drew James, Judge Advocate - Army - Post 7511, Monroe  
Frank Persa - Army Post 5580, Yelm



The opening ceremonies at the State Convention in Spokane.

At front right is our own District 1 Commander Otis Wolfe

# Military Trivia

by Carl Kurfess

## Last ditch effort



Final and determined attempt.

In 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century warfare when armies were preparing the ground for a pitched battle, they would dig several lines of trenches in case they needed to retreat and regroup in prepared positions. If the men found themselves in the last ditch they had no option other than to fight where they stood or to die.

## The Balloon went up



Indication of imminent trouble

Before a World War I infantry attack, artillery would soften up the target area. Before opening fire, observation balloons were sent aloft to observe and correct aim. This obviously alerted the troops in the trenches that it would not be long before they would be sent over the top to attack. So “the balloon went up” came to mean imminent trouble.

## Parting shot



Cutting remark issued on departure.

The army of the Parthian dynasty of Persia (modern Iran) had a number of lightly equipped horse archers. They were extremely skillful and one of their tactics was to fake a retreat and then turn in their saddle and cut down pursuers with an unexpected shot. Over time, the expression has changed from “Parthian shot” to “parting shot”.

## Works cited

Donald, G., Wiest, A., & Shepherd, W. (2013). *Sticklers, Sideburns and Bikinis: The military origins of everyday words and phrases*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

We recently ran across this poem, by a unknown author, which is a sort of sailor's version of Colonel John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields". While we don't for a moment mean to denigrate the Colonel's wonderful piece, this does present a different point of view. There are a lot of sailors resting out there with no chance of a grave marker.

## IN WATERS DEEP

In ocean waves no poppies blow,  
No crosses stand in ordered row.  
There young hearts sleep... beneath the wave...  
The spirited, the good, the brave,  
But stars a constant vigil keep,



For them who lie beneath the deep.  
'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer  
On certain spot and think. "He's  
there."  
But you can to the ocean go...  
See whitecaps marching row on row;  
Know one for him will always ride...  
In and out... with every tide.  
And when your span of life is passed,  
He'll meet you at the "Captain's  
Mast."  
And they who mourn on distant shore  
For sailors who'll come home no  
more,

Can dry their tears and pray for these  
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...  
For stars that shine and winds that blow  
And whitecaps marching row on row.  
And they can never lonely be  
For when they lived... they chose the sea.