



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

August, 2022 - Vol. 20 No.1

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., **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 Sept. 21, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM

Veterans Day Poppy Distribution - November 4 & 5 - Sign up at Sept Post meeting

Post Christmas Party - Sat. Dec. 17

9/11 - Never Forget

Several members of Post 8870 attended the South County Fire Department's annual observance of the 9/11 tragedy, held at the 9/11 Memorial on 6th Avenue, including Commander Carl Kurfuss, Quartermaster Jim Traner and resident artist Mike Reagan.



The event was hosted by retired Edmonds Fire Fighter Bronco Erickson, who was instrumental in the acquiring of the tower remnants used to create the memorial.

At this year's event, with the consent of Erickson, Vietnam Marine Veteran Jim Curtis, who started a Karate Studio a number of years ago, presented Reagan with a 10th Degree Black Belt. The Belt says "Umibushi" on it (apparently this translates to; "Warrior of the Sea.")

He included with it a 50th Anniversary book on Vietnam, "A Time To Honor", inscribed:

"This is to confirm that Marine Corps Combat Veteran Michael Reagan has been Awarded the title of, Dai Shiha and the rank of Ju-Dan in the Martial Art of Umibushi Goshin Jutsu".

If you have never attended one of these 9/11 events, consider it for next year. They are very moving occasions.



Commander Represents Post 8870 at District 1 Events



Commander Carl Kurfess represented Post 8870 at recent District 1 events, including the VFW booth at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe and the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival. Both of these events were “Show the Flag” opportunities for our local District 1 Posts, at which members of several area Posts distributed Buddy Poppies and offered membership information to veterans who may wish to join our ranks.

The first photo shows Kurfess at the VFW booth at the fair in Monroe, followed by another in front of Everett Post 2100’s truck in Mukilteo and last but not least, getting a rock climbing workout in Mukilteo.

Well done Commander!





Veterans Day Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppy Chair and Sr. Vice Commander Duane Bowman wants you all to know that we will be distributing Buddy Poppies and raising money for our Relief Fund in advance of Veterans Day which is closing in on us fast!

We will be at three stores again this year, including QFC Westgate in Edmonds, QFC Speedway in Mukilteo and Town & Country Market in Mill Creek. These three locations have always been our best producing stores.

The dates will be November 4th and 5th. We will operate from 1100 to 1800 on Friday, Nov. 4th and 1030 to 1800 on Saturday the 5th. Members, are urged to sign up for as much time as they can spare and encouraged to bring spouses and other family members and friends to help. If you can't handle a full shift, come and do what you can!



Sign up forms will be available at the September and October Post meeting. We encourage everyone

August Post Meeting

There was no speaker at the August meeting.

Results of the business meeting:

- Quartermaster's report was reviewed and approved.
- The Post General Fund is still a bit light. Donations are welcome.
- Relief Fund budget for the year was reviewed and approved.
- Reminder for all, Buddy Poppies for Veterans day are scheduled for November 4 & 5.
- Membership possibilities were discussed including recruiting opportunities at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival on Festival 9-10-2022 & at the VFW Booth at the Evergreen State Fair. (See article on those two events)
- As of now we are putting a hold on having a booth at the Edmonds Market.
- August & September Hero's Café meetings were announced.



POW/MIA National Recognition Day

On the morning of 22 November 1966, 1st Lt. Joe Crecca (call sign Dogwood 2) was scheduled to fly his 87th combat mission. Joe was the back-seater of an F-4E Phantom and while striking a POL storage facility in Ha Gia, North Vietnam, his plane was shot down by an SA-2 missile. The pilot, 1st Lt. Gordon Wilson, was killed upon impact, but Joe successfully ejected and was immediately captured upon landing on the ground. For the next 2,280 days, Joe was held in the infamous Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton) in Hanoi, North Vietnam.



We met Joe several years ago, when he visited VFW Post. (Joe is shown at left with Past Commander Fred Apgar at that meeting) Crecca described the beatings and torture he experienced at the hands of his North Vietnamese captors in detail and the harsh conditions and meager rations, often spoiled and infested with insects. Crecca played a pivotal role in our country's accounting of the Americans who had been held in captivity. While a POW, Joe memorized the names of over 700 of his fellow POW's and was able to provide a comprehensive list upon his release.

By the time of his repatriation on 18 February 1973, Joe had been promoted to the rank of Major, and he remained in the Air Force for another five years. For the next 27 years, Joe was a pilot for Flying Tigers and its successor, Federal Express. Joe and his wife, Joan, who hails from Liverpool, England, reside in North Bend, Washington.

Many thanks to Fred for reminding us of Major Crecca and all of our POW/MIA comrades.

Can You Identify This Weapon?

We have run "Can you identify"...articles in past issues, featuring Army, Air Force and Marine Corp weapons, aircraft and vehicles, but finally, here is one for all of our Navy veterans, particularly the older ones.

This weapon system is the **40mm Bofors Quad Mount anti aircraft gun system**, commonly known as the "Pom Pom" gun. The gun crew consisted of seven men for twin mounts: the gun captain, a pointer, a trainer, and four loaders. Your editor once served as a loader on one of these aboard USS Winston, AKA-94, an attack cargo vessel and can attest that the weapon could dispense a full clip as fast as it could be loaded, delivering around 80 to 90 rounds per minute. The guns were controlled remotely by Mk-51 gun directors which were located on the Bridge level above, though some were manually aimed early on.

In the age of jet aircraft and anti-ship missiles, this weapon system was obsolete and being phased out of service aboard Navy ships at the time of your editor's service, but it found other uses in ground installations and aboard aircraft well into Vietnam.



September is Suicide Prevention Month