



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**September, 2022 - Vol. 20 No.2**

# ***The Veterans' Voice***

**Edmonds VFW Post 8870**

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

**Commander Carl Kurfess**

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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 Oct. 19, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM**

**Veterans Day Poppy Distribution - November 4 & 5 - Sign up at Oct. Post meeting**

**There will be no regular Post meeting in December.**

**Post Christmas Party - Sat. Dec. 17**

**Department of Washington Mid-Winter Conference - January 19 - 21, 2023 - Yakima**

## **From the Commander's Desk**

1. Watch the weather. It is Autumn now and it will be getting colder and wetter. Make sure you are drinking plenty of fluids, wear sunscreen, don't be out in the sun too long (while it lasts).
2. The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. This is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. It is relevant to Vietnam era Veterans. You can find more information at the following links:

- **PACT ACT** [The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)
- **PACT Act and Toxic Exposure Information - VFW**

3. Consider signing a Veterans Day card for a fellow Veteran. See the link below. The VFW has a special way for you to show our brothers and sisters they're appreciated as we head toward Veterans Day. The VFW will be sending cards and we want to make sure a fellow veteran receives one from you. We know how much you care, so please **sign a card for a hospitalized veteran or service member** (at this link) and brighten their day.

4. Speaking of **Veterans Day**, this year it will be Friday, November 11th. We are planning a ceremony at our Edmonds Veterans Plaza at 11am. Our keynote speaker will be Mike Schindler of Operation Military Family. Pins, and a display from the Northwest Veterans Museum will be there.

We will be handing out Buddy poppies on Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5 at three stores: 1) QFC Westgate, 2) QFC Mukilteo, and 3) Town & Country Market in Mill Creek. As always, we need volunteers. Please attend our October 19<sup>th</sup> Post meeting for a chance to sign up.

## September Post Meeting

### Summary of minutes of September Post Meeting.

- Guest speaker Dean Olson talked about the need for volunteers to assist people with hearing disabilities at the Edmonds Waterfront Center.
- New member Chuck Smith was introduced. Member acceptance was moved by Jim Traner/and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane Bowman & accepted by vote.
- Zoom recording of the Post meetings are now available on the post website. Quartermaster's report was reviewed and approved. Members authorized the payment of small outstanding bills.
- Senior Vice Commander Duane Bowman led a discussion of upgrades to the display materials for the tables that we use during our fund raising efforts.
- Veterans Day Poppy distributions will be held November 4 and 5. Members are urged to sign up early, at the October Post meeting.
- District 1 School of Instruction was held on Sept 10, 2022. It as announced that the Community Service Report will be done on an individual member basis, ONLY ON LINE. (Instructions in a separate article in this newsletter.
- Don Stapleton will manage the Essay contest.
- The Bylaw update is in progress.
- Will have a Veterans Day ceremony on 11-11-2022, @ the Veterans Plaza. We need to find a speaker.
- It was moved by Brian Rowe & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cal Barnard the Post spend approximately \$120.00 to get 2 plaques for Rose Gilliland & Dennis Peterson to be awarded for their devotion and hard work that they have given to the Post over the years.



**Sept.Speaker  
Dean Olson**



Dean Olson joined us to speak about the need for volunteers to assist people with hearing disabilities at the Edmonds Waterfront Center, one of the many programs offered at the EWC. If you missed his presentation and are interested in this program, contact Olson at [deanolson11@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson11@gmail.com).

At age 4, Olson began experiencing minor hearing loss that ultimately progressed until — as an adult — he became profoundly deaf, requiring bilateral cochlear implants. Olson serves as president of Washington State Communication Access and was instrumental in getting a Senate bill passed in the State legislature requiring closed-captions on televisions in all places of public accommodation in Washington state – which was unanimously adopted and signed by Gov. Jay Inslee May 10, benefiting people who are hearing impaired.

## Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival



Al Boyett participated with other veterans on a float in the Autumn Leaf Festival Parade in Leavenworth on September 24.



## Edmonds Octoberfest



Post 8870 participated with the Rotary Club of Edmonds **Octoberfest** event Sept. 23 & 24. We had 4 volunteers to hand out Buddy Poppies and make VFW membership applications available to festival visitors. Participating with Commander Carl Kurfess were Les Abel, Bryan Rowe and Pete Farmer.

The members handed out a bunch of poppies & flags, and collected \$ 21 in donations, as well as membership applications and VFW info. No applicants signed up on the spot.



Above right, the post's tent was broken out of storage for the event, and Commander Carl set up a separate tent for a display from the Northwest Veterans Museum, shown at left.







## Notes from VFW National

If you've been on social media or checked your email inbox recently, you've no doubt received countless solicitations from law firms or agencies advertising their assistance with your VA claim in the wake of the PACT Act.

From our National Veterans Service experts, here are some important things to remember:

- File a claim for any PACT Act conditions.
- Contact a VFW Accredited Service Officer today to discuss the PACT Act and what it means for you.
- Hold off on committing to a Camp Lejeune lawsuit until VA publishes how the offset will affect your settlement and benefits.
- **NEVER PAY** for claims assistance. Presumptive claims are straightforward and can easily be handled by any VA-accredited claims representative.
- If you've been fighting for years, you may think a PACT Act claim will be complicated. Good news: **Presumptive claims are some of the simplest claims because VA is conceding that your illness happened because you went somewhere bad.**
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Stay up-to-date with the PACT Act and what it means for your claim by visiting [vfw.org/PACTActInfo](https://vfw.org/PACTActInfo). The VFW and our network of more than 2,000 accredited claims representatives will be by your side as we navigate through the interpretation and implementation of the PACT Act together. We won't rest until every veteran receives the care and compensation they deserve.

## Reporting your Community Service Hours/mileage *Instituting a new system*

At the beginning of the VFW year in July, Department introduced a new method for reporting community service as VFW members. We will no longer report through the Post Surgeon, but are to report individually and directly through the Department Web site. This is a program which VFW National is considering rolling out nationwide, for which our Department has been selected as a "Beta Test" group.

To do so, log into the Members Only section of the Department of Washington site, (<https://vfwwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>) using your VFW member number as your login name and your last name as your password. You will see an option for "Program Reporting" on the resulting page, which will take you to a page for entering your information like that appearing on page five of this newsletter. This page uses drop down boxes for some entries and requires typed text for others.

If you are unclear about what is reportable, you may want to review the instructional pdf on Community Service Reporting, which you will find under the Programs tab, and go over those rules in detail. This pdf was prepared for the old CSR report form, so you can ignore that part of the pdf. The actual rules discussed about what is reportable are current.

Let's give this our best shot.

*(continued on page 5)*

