



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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The Veterans' Voice

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

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Commander Carl Kurfess

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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 - 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 March 15, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM

March Post meeting speaker: Jim Armstrong - Engineer NCO in Iraq/Afganistan

April Post Meeting Speaker: Jerreta Scott- Capital Captioned Telephones

From the Commander's Desk:

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Things are going well at 8870, we have some new members (we can always use more) and we are staying busy.

Post elections are coming up. Anyone who is wanting to become a post officer, please let me know.

VFW National Day of Service is May 6. We are planning a Beach cleanup "crawl", as a Joint effort of VFW & Auxiliary with American Legion. We will start at Marina Beach Park and walk North along the Beach picking up trash.

Memorial Day will be here before you know it. Our **Buddy Poppy drive** is set for Friday and Saturday (May 26 & 27). We always need volunteers. If you can't work a morning or afternoon shift or more, volunteer an hour or more. Contact Duane Bowman, our Poppy Committee chairman for more details.

On Memorial Day itself, we will participate in annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery. This year's theme is honoring Purple Heart recipients.

We need someone to act as our for a Public Servant/Safety Chair to contact Police and Fire departments to recognize outstanding public safety personnel. If interested, please contact the Post Commander.

Some new MIA/KIA banners are on order for Memorial Day and for the Fourth of July parade.

The Post is on track for getting All State/All American recognition for the year. Thanks to all our Post members for your work.

February Post Meeting

February Speaker

Dennis Gibb - Scout Helo pilot in Vietnam.



Gibb, who also joined our post ranks at this meeting, spoke first about his experience as a scout helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Although most combat aircraft in Vietnam aimed for altitudes and speeds that helped them avoid anti-aircraft weapons, U.S. Army crews of the lighter scout helicopters flew low and drew fire - to set up shots for artillery, or the Bell AH-1G Cobras circling above. These hunter-killer missions, among the most hazardous of the Vietnam War, tested the resolve of the OH-6 pilots and the aerial observers sitting beside them. Their survival depended on well-honed instincts and razor-sharp reflexes, along with plenty of luck. After many such missions, Gibb received injuries which ended his service and still impact him today.



After a long career in the financial services, he now works at Edmonds College, helping formerly incarcerated veterans to reestablish their lives following release. He presently works with some 40 such vets at the College who are furthering their education. This new career is a reformation of sorts, following some mistakes for which he is paying restitution to this day.

New Members Sworn In



Craig Dougherty Department of WA
Sr. Vice Commander. (at left)
Administered the oath to two new members, (LtoR) Bryon Wada and Dennis Gibb. Both were introduced and proposed for membership by Membership Chair Jim Traner and approved by voice vote of the assembled members.





Mike Reagan presented a portrait of Harlow "Bud" Hart to Craig Dougherty. Harlow was a very close personal friend of Craig.

Memorial Day Poppies - May 25-26

Mark your calendar !



Poppies will be distributed for Memorial Day on Friday, May 26 and Saturday May 27 at QFC Westgate, in Edmonds, QFC Speedway, Mukilteo and at Town & Country Market, Mill Creek. Sign up for one or more shifts at the Post meeting, or on line.

Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29

Vietnam War Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home more than 40 years ago.



The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 establishes the day as a national observance. However, it is not an official holiday in any part of the United States.



Most states celebrate "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" on March 29 or 30 of each year. Though there is some debate, March 29 is generally viewed as a more appropriate date. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. It is also the date President Nixon chose for the first Vietnam Veterans Day in 1974. Among local observances is the event at left, which takes place at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, 5011 Bernie Whitebear Way, Seattle. (Ft. Lawton)

Celebrating Women's History Month

Military Women's Memorial

March being Women's History Month, it would seem in order to salute our sisters in arms who have served alongside us throughout our country's history and do so today in greater numbers than ever. A short introduction to the Military Women's Memorial located with the cemetery at Arlington, VA seems a step in the right direction.

The Military Women's Memorial is a one-of-a-kind tribute to the more than 3,000,000 American women who have served since the Revolution. The Memorial features an education center, interactive exhibits, and a world-class collection of military women's stories. The Military Women's Memorial is located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Avenue & Schley Drive, in Arlington, VA.



Mission

The Military Women's Memorial honors and tells the stories of women, past and present, who serve our nation. The Memorial celebrated its 25th anniversary in October 2022.

Vision

"We are the leading memorial and education center honoring women's contributions to the service of our nation. As the only historical repository documenting all military women's service, we educate and inspire through innovative and interactive exhibitions, our world-class collections, and engaging programs and events for all generations. We honor the commitment, contributions and experiences of every woman who serves in, or with, the Armed Forces."

Our National VFW Essay Winners

In the left hand image, VFW National Commander Tim Borland (right) and VFW Auxiliary President Jane Reape (left) present Voice of Democracy first place winner Scotland Stewart (center) with his \$35,000 award. Stewart represents Post 1893, Winchester, TN

At right, they present Patriot's Pen first place winner Leighton Peters (center) with her \$5,000 award. Peters is from Rice Lake, WI, representing Post 2204.





The PACT Act adds more than 20 presumptive conditions for burn pits, agent orange and other toxins, extending VA benefits and compensation to more toxic exposed veterans than ever before.

The Act advances a top priority of VA and the VFW — getting more veterans into VA care. Three new categories of veterans will be phased into receiving hospital care, medical services and nursing home care.

The VFW has developed a quick and easy questionnaire to help you determine your potential eligibility. Check your eligibility at this VFW web page:
<https://pactactinfo.org/>

The Veteran Resource event is sponsored by these National, State and Local agencies:



VETERAN RESOURCE EVENT

April 18th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WorkSource Everett
 3201 Smith Ave
 Room 311 & 314
 Everett, WA 98201

Get assistance with:

- VA claims questions
- job search
- resume assistance
- financial resources
- training
- food & housing resources
- transportation.

- Veteran Affairs Veteran Benefits Administration
- Veteran Affairs Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing
- Snohomish County Veterans' Assistance Program
- WorkSource
- The Vet Center
- The Homeless Veteran's Reintegration Program

For more information, please contact Robyn Gonzales at (425) 258-6317 or robyn.gonzales@esd.wa.gov

Carl's POW Trivia: Challenge coins



A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. Traditionally, they are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In addition, they are also collected by service members. In practice, challenge coins are normally presented by unit commanders in recognition of

special achievement by a member of the unit. These are typically called a "Commander's coin for excellence". They are also exchanged in recognition of visits to an organization.



According to the most common story, challenge coins originated during World War I. Before the entry of the United States into the war in 1917 American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. One such pilot was shot down and found by the French. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Challenge Coins, cont'd

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. The challenge coin tradition has spread to other military units, in all branches of service, and even to non-military organizations as well as the United States Congress, which produces challenge coins for members of Congress to give to constituents. Today, some challenge coins are given to members upon joining an organization, as an award to improve morale, and sold to commemorate special occasions or as fundraisers. Commanders of units have a special fund with which they can order "Commanders coins".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_coin

National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force

From the Travels of Fred Apgar



Located just a few miles from Savannah, in the town of Pooler, is the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. The museum was founded as a means of recognizing the devotion to duty and sacrifices of the more than 350,000 members of the Eighth Air Force during WW II.

On 19 January 1942, the VIII Bomber Command was activated at Langley Field, in Virginia, and less than a month later, the Command was reassigned to Savannah Air Base in Georgia (which is now Hunter Army Airfield). On 22 February 1944, VIII Bomber Command was re-designated as the Eighth Air Force.

Combat operations for the Eighth Air Force began on 17 August 1942 when a flight of 12 B-17s attacked a German marshalling yard (railroad) in France. During WW II, the Eighth flew daytime strategic bombing missions against targets throughout Europe.

The Combat Gallery is the largest area of the museum. A restored B-17 sits in the middle of the exhibit hall. The plane is a tribute to the "City of Savannah" which marked 5,000 airplanes processed through the airfield in 1944. Also on display is a P-51 and a Boeing-Stearman Model 75 Kaydet, the most widely used aircraft to train pilots during WW II.

By mid-1944, the Eighth Air Force had reached a total strength of more than 200,000, and by the end of the war in Europe, more than 350,000 Americans had served in Mighty Eighth. At peak strength, the Eighth Air Force had forty heavy bomber groups, fifteen fighter groups, and four specialized support groups.

The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force is a must-see for anyone with an interest in WW II and the air war conducted by the Army Air Corps. It is a wonderful tribute to the more than 350,000 men and women who served in the Eighth Air Force in the WW II European Theater.

