



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**May 2023 - Vol. 20 No.8**

# ***The Veterans' Voice***

**Edmonds VFW Post 8870**

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 - 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 17, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM**

**Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Distribution: May 26, 27**

**Memorial Day Observances, May 29, Edmonds Cemetery, Veterans Plaza**

*(See detailed articles in this issue)*

## **April Post Meeting**

### **Speaker**



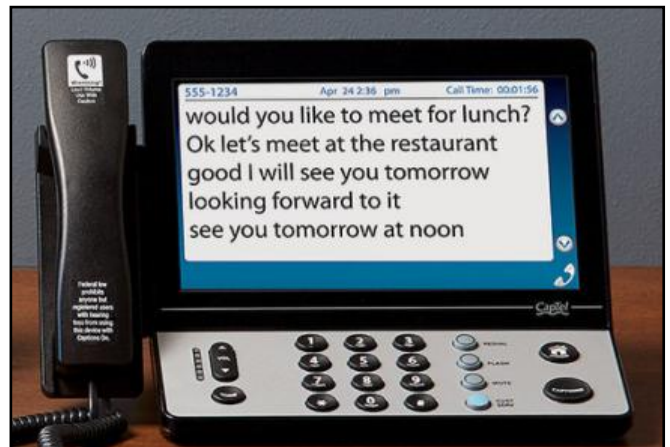
***Jeretta Scott***

conversation.

Veterans interested in this service can contact Scott by phone at 206-910-9594, or via email: [jeretta.scott@oeius.org](mailto:jeretta.scott@oeius.org). More information is also available on their website: <https://oeius.org/>

At our April Post meeting our speaker was of OEI, an organization that seeks out veterans with hearing loss, who may qualify for a no cost "caption" telephone for their home. (One of these devices is shown here). Scott explained that the program is paid by government using revenues from a tax levied on communications companies.

As the photo illustrates, the device puts the conversation up on on the screen in large type, to allow the user to more easily and accurately follow the



## April Post Business Meeting Report

New Members: Shannon Yates & Joe Gray were introduced and proposed as members by Membership Chair Jim Traner. Both were approved by vote of the membership and we are pleased to welcome them to the Post.

We will hold election of officers for the 2023/24 VFW year at our May meeting. The members nominated for the elective positions are:



Commander – Duane Bowman  
Sr Vice Commander – Rose Gilliland  
Jr Vice Commander – Carl Kurfess  
Quartermaster – Jim Traner  
Chaplain – Dan Doyle  
3-Year Trustee – Kerry Watkins

Post Service Officer Alden Gilliland has been quite busy assisting veterans with various issues regarding veterans programs. Gilliland feels that we need to

look at increasing the Service officer's budget, in order to be able to help more of our comrades. We discussed providing some money to the Everett Naval Base so that they can give gift cards to those in need as part of this increased effort.

Seventeen applications have been received for the four scholarships that we have available this year. After review the chosen students will be invited to attend the May Post meeting to receive their award.

VFW Auxiliary assisted our Post with the beach cleanup on May 6. They will also hold a Buddy Poppy event on May 25 at the Edmonds Waterfront center.

The following were approved by the membership as delegates for the Department Convention in Spokane: Jim Traner, Duane Bowman, Dan Doyle, Mike Denton, Rose Gilliland & Alden Gilliland.

Calvin Barnard, Mike Denton & Duane Bowman will work on the details for the proposed raffle of a Mike Reagan portrait of a celebrity, signed by the subject. The bulk of this effort will happen from late summer with the drawing of the winning ticket at the Christmas party in December.

We have a Memorial Day ceremony at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery at 11 AM and at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza at 1:30 PM. Volunteers will be needed for both services.

### Celebration of Life for Al Boyett



Al's widow Jo Boyette informs us that a celebration of Al's life will be held at 12:00 Noon, on Sunday, June 4 at Northlake Lutheran Church, 6620 NE 185th St. in Kenmore.

As we announced in the December issue of this newsletter, Al passed away late last year following a long bout with cancer. Al, an Army veteran, was long time active member of Post 8870, and his wife Jo a leader of the Auxilliary where she continues.

## VFW Day of Service

### “Beach Crawl Cleanup”

Members of Edmonds VFW Post 8870 & Auxilliary, along with American Legion Post 66, families and friends participated in the first ever “Beach Crawl Cleanup” at Edmonds Marina Beach Park on Saturday, May 6. This event was conducted as part of VFW National Day of Service.



This first such event was held on a relatively small scale, but we hope to expand our efforts to include more of the beach and park area at the south end of Edmonds Marina in future years.

In the photo at left we see Commander Carl Kurfess wielding his trusty trash grabber, trash bag in hand.

At right is the entire contingent of trash collectors to whom we offer a hearty “well done.”



*Taking a break in the action*

## Memorial Day “Buddy Poppies”

Our first Buddy Poppy distribution effort will take place on Friday May 26 and Saturday May 27 at the same three locations we used for last Veterans Day, QFC at Edmonds, Westgate, QFC at Mukilteo Speedway and Town & Country Market in Mill Creek. We need as many members as possible to participate in order to make the most of this fund raising opportunity. This of us who are regular Poppy distributors find it to be a fun and rewarding experience.

Remember: we don’t sell poppies, and we don’t ask for money; we simply ask the people to wear a poppy to remember the fallen. That they are generous in donating in the process is their own decision.



You can sign up for one or more shifts on either or both days at at the May Post meeting, or online the “sign-up genius” link set up by Sr. Vice Commander & Poppy chair Duane Bowman, which was sent to all of you via email earlier. (You can copy and paste the link below to your browser if need be.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA62BA6FDCF8-2023>



## Memorial Day Events Scheduled

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, we have our usual two events on the agenda, starting with the ceremonies at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery which begin at 11:00 AM. We will need to gather at the cemetery at 10:30 to form up our color guard. A White Table ceremony will be performed and various speakers will observe this solemn event.



Following the morning ceremonies, we will gather again at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza where that event will begin at 1:30 PM. If you can help with moving chairs and the flags from the American Legion Hall to and from the Veterans Plaza, all available help will be appreciated.

Wear your cover.

## Post Recognizes New Eagle Scouts

On Saturday, April 22, four representatives of VFW Post 8870 attended the Eagle Court of Honor for new Eagle Scouts Wyatt Adams and Andrew Young. The Eagle rank is the highest in Scouting and represents



several years of hard work on the part of the Scouts to earn the necessary 22 merit badges and complete other requirements, including the Eagle Project.

*From Left above are Wyatt Adams with his mother and Andrew young with his parents.*

Adams and Young are members of Scouts BSA Troop 312, which is sponsored by the Edmonds United Methodist Church, where the ceremony was held.

Commander Carl Kurfess, and Post members Parnia Parvini, Mike Denton and Jeff McKinney were there to witness the proceedings and present the new Eagle Scouts with VFW certificates and commemorative belt buckles recognizing their achievement.



*In this photo, Commander Kurfess has presented the new Eagles with VFW certificates and Eagle Scout buckles.*

## Carl's POW Trivia: The Commander in Chief



Also known as the CINC. The elected head of our country, the President of the United States, is also the Commander in Chief of all the Armed Forces. The President has this power from Article II, Section 2, Clause I of the Constitution, "...the President of the United States is commander in chief of the United States Armed Forces". The President possess the ultimate authority, but no "rank", maintaining civilian control of the military.

Starting with George Washington in 1789, a number of Presidents have had military experience, but this is not a requirement. As of 2016, no member of the U.S. Marine Corps or U.S. Coast Guard has yet been elected President. The most frequent military experience is Army/Army Reserve with 15 presidents, followed by State Militias at 9, Navy/Naval Reserve at 6 and the Continental Army with 2 presidents serving. Eight presidents served during World War II, while seven served in the military during the American Civil War. 16 presidents have served in the rank of O-6 or higher. Three, George Washington, Ulysses Grant, and Dwight Eisenhower, have served as Generals of the Army. President-Elect Donald Trump graduated from the New York Military Academy in 1964. He was not drafted as he received several deferments and a high draft lottery number.

The Goldwater-Nichols Act in 1986 codified the default operational chain of command: running from the President to the Secretary of Defense, and from the Secretary of Defense to the combatant commander. While the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff outranks all other military officers, he does not have operational command authority over the Armed Forces. However, the chairman does assist the President and the Secretary of Defense in the exercise of their command functions.

