



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

June 2023 - Vol. 20 No.9

The Veterans' Voice

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

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

Commander Carl Kurfess

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Newsletter Editor, Mike Denton, mikedenton44@gmail.com

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 June 21, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM

Edmonds Kind of 4th Parade, Tues. July 4, Gather @ 10:30 am

May Post Meeting

Scholarship Awards

This year's "Freedom" Scholarships were awarded to 5 deserving students as follows:

Samantha Rohwer – Kamiak High School

Hannah Goerg – Mariner High school

Mya Sheffield – Mountlake Terrace High School

Troy David Slocum – Archbishop Murphy High School

Kyra Ross – Meadowdale High school



Slocum and Ross were our guests at the meeting and both read their respective scholarship essays for the assembled membership. Both students' parents were also on hand. Members of the Scholarship Committee also plan to attend the Senior Awards ceremonies at each of the winner's high schools to recognize them.

Kyra, left and Troy, right are shown with their award certificates.



Senior Awards Night



All of our local high schools conduct Senior Awards ceremonies for their graduating students who have received academic, sports and community service awards. Members of our Scholarship Committee attended these events to recognize our Freedom Scholarship winners to their school community.

At left is Kyra Ross of Meadowdale H.S. who was recognized at that school's event by Committee member Mike Denton.

Post Officers Elected and Installed for VFW Year 2023-34

The elected and appointed officers for the 2023/2024 year are as follows: These members were installed to their positions by PAST District 1 Commander Jim Traner:

Commander – Duane Bowman
Jr Vice Commander – Carl Kurfess
Chaplain - Dan Doyle
2 Year Trustee – Mike Denton
Adjutant – Calvin Barnard
Judge Advocate – Jim Traner

Sr Vice Commander – Rose Gilliland
Quartermaster – Jim Traner
1 Year Trustee – Don Stapleton
3 Year Trustee – Kerry Watkins
Service Officer – Alden Gilliland
Surgeon – Bryan Rowe

District 1 Elections

Our 2023-24 District Commander is Terry Stinson of VFW Post 7511 in Monroe shown at right.

Our own Carl Kurfess is the new Sr Vice Commander and Jim Traner is the Judge Advocate.

The balance of the District 1 Staff:
Jr. Vice Commander, Chris Cote of Post 921
Quartermaster, Don Wischmann, Post 2100
Adjutant, John Beam, Post 1040
Chaplain, Ricky Andrew, Post 7511
Surgeon, Elmer Johnson, Post 921
Officer of the Day, Michael Bowling, Post 7511
Trustee #1, Courtney Griffith, Post 9417
Trustee #2, Dave Ortega, Post 7511
Trustee #3, Doug White. Post 9417



Commander Stinson

The new District website is up and running, where members will find more detailed information about each of the new District staff:
[https:// www.vfwdistrict1.org/](https://www.vfwdistrict1.org/). You may also sign up to subscribe to the District newsletter on the web page.

Memorial Day Observance Edmonds Memorial Cemetery



Members of Edmonds VFW Post 8870 participated once again in the Edmonds Memorial Day Ceremony at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery on Monday, May 29, 2023. Over 25 Post 8870 members, wives, family members and American Legion Post 66 members attended. Post 8870 members marched in the opening ceremony and the Honor guard raised the flag. Post Scholarship Winner Troy Slocum read his essay. Post member Chris Edwards played Taps. Post Commander Carl Kurfess read the White Table ceremony. Korean War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient Phil Sacks rang the bell for the fallen.



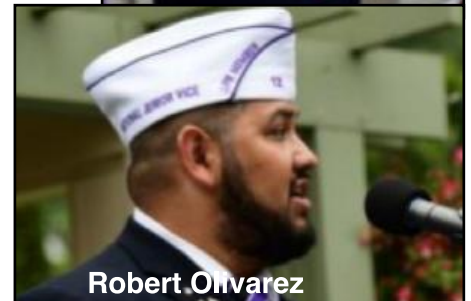
Speakers included Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson, who reminded the audience that “Edmonds is a Purple Heart City, where we honor and remember those who were wounded or killed in combat.”



Troy Slocum



Mike Nelson



Robert Olivarez

“We remember your sacrifice, your pain, and those who were robbed of their future so we could have ours,” he concluded. “Your sacrifices will never be forgotten.”

(The Purple Heart Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who were wounded in combat action or posthumously to the next of kin of those who are killed or die of wounds received in action.



Nelson was followed by keynote speaker Marine Sgt. Robert Olivarez, the Junior National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

“This is a day to pay tribute to those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice,” Olivarez began.

“What they gave defined and made possible our freedoms and our way of life. We owe them a debt that cannot be repaid. (Photos courtesy Larry Vogel, MyEdmondsNews)



Chris Edwards

Memorial Day at Edmonds Veterans Plaza

Following the larger event at the Cemetery, the post put on a short event at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza, Featuring the same keynote speakers. In the photo at right, Post Chaplain Dan Doyle leads an opening prayer.



Below right, Jim Traner hands out Vietnam anniversary pins to veterans and family members.



Eagle Scout Recognition



On May 22, Commander Carl Kurfess, long with Post members Parnia Parvini, Mike Denton and Jeff McKinney, attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for two young men of Troop 312 at the Edmonds United Methodist Church. Both were presented with Eagle Scout belt buckles and VFW certificates of recognition.

Shown in the photo are new Eagle Scouts Wyatt Adams, left center and Andrew Young to Adams' right, with their parents. Congratulations to both on this singular accomplishment!

New Post 8870 Polo Shirts available for July 4

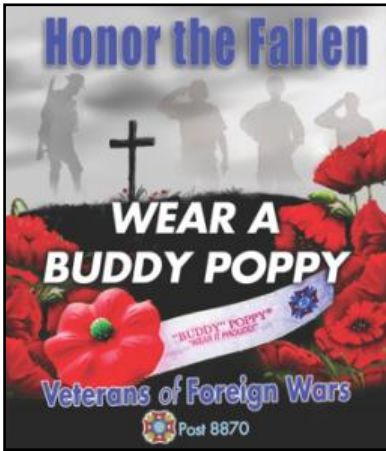
Be sure you pick up your new Post shirt, if you ordered one.

The new Post 8870 polo Shirts are available to be picked up at the June Post meeting for those who ordered them. \$21/each. Wear them with your cover for the Parade on July 4.

The shirt will have the VFW Maltese Cross logo with VFW Post 8870 in gold. An image of the basic shirt is at right.



Memorial Day “Buddy Poppies”



On Friday and Saturday prior to Memorial Day, members of VFW Post 8870 & Auxilliary, along with American Legion Post 66 members, family and friends, manned the tables at QFC Westgate in Edmonds, QFC Speedway, Mukilteo and Town & Country Market in Mill Creek to distribute VFW Buddy Poppies in remembrance of those lost in battle during our country's conflicts.



Recipients of the Poppy were generous, as usual and contributed in excess of \$ **15,500.00** over the two day effort. These funds will allow us to expand some of our efforts to help our comrades in need and continue our contribution the many programs we have long supported.

A number of our members participated both days, in some cases all day. Well done!