



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

June July 2023 - Vol. 20 No.8

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

Edmonds Kind of 4th Parade -2023



As we have done for many years, Edmonds veterans of VFW Post 8870 and American Legion Post 66 led off the annual 4th of July parade, which has been produced by the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce for over a century. Veterans able to do so walked the approximately 1-1/2 mile parade route and a few others rode in vehicles provided.

The parade was followed by our traditional barbecue at the Legion Hall, where the parade participants were joined by other family members and friends, to enjoy hot dogs,

hamburgers and sides. Despite the reputation of our Pacific Northwest climate, the weather was sunny and warm, as we have come to expect for Independence Day in recent years.



Mike Reagan was honored by the local Kiwanis Club as the Citizen of the Year, for his long standing and continuing efforts to recognize our Fallen Heroes by creating hand sketched portraits for their families. Reagan has produced something in excess of 8, 000 such portraits since his “retirement”. Congratulations Mike!



Coming down Fifth Avenue, parade participants encountered the first of two veteran (in both senses of the word) announcers in the person of Past 8870 Commander Jim Blossey, pictured here. Jim and his announcing partner on Main Street, Past Commander Mike Denton, have performed this function for over fifteen years.

June Post Meeting



Immediate Past Commander Carl Kurfess was honored with a plaque in recognition for his service as Post Commander for the last 2 years. At left, Kurfess receives the plaque from Commander Duane Bowman.

At the Department of Washington Convention in Spokane, Post 8870 was recognized as an All-State Post for 2022/2023. Hence the white hat you see on Carl's head.



Great job by the officers and all members! 8870 has been an All State Post for most of the years your editor has been a member. The awarded commander wears it for the entire post to recognize the team effort and the Quartermaster for his/her individual performance.

Also at the convention, the Post newsletter that is written, assembled & distributed by Mike Denton was recognized at the State Convention as the best News Letter from a "Small Post."



A Hand Salute to our Post 8870 Honor Guard Members

The VFW Honor Guard provides their services at deceased veterans' funerals and burials, as well as appearing for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other appropriate events.

We are very proud of our Post 8870 Honor Guard members who are, left to right Dan Doyle, Cal Barnard, Gerry Burton and Bryan Rowe, shown here at a recent event.



Legionnaires celebrate 150 years of beans

One-hundred fifty years ago, Civil War veterans in Erie, Kan., determined that the best way to rekindle memories of fighting together would be by eating together. The menu was familiar: navy



beans seasoned with pork, onions, salt and pepper.

Thus began the Old Soldiers & Sailors Reunion in the community of about 1,100 residents. The reunion evolved into a free communitywide bean feed that today draws crowds from across the state and beyond.

The American Legion Family of George L. Hendricks Post 102 in

Erie has led the massive undertaking for nearly 60 years, filling the cast-iron kettles, lighting the wood fires, tending to more than 1,200 pounds of beans and dishing them out free of charge. While beans may not be quite the dominant armed forces menu item they were in civil war days, all of us who have served have certainly eaten our share, whether afloat or ashore.

A Brand New Newsletter Feature!



Who knew we had a resident cartoonist in our midst ?

Commander Duane Bowman provided us with this effort for the current issue and promises it will be the first, but not the last. We look forward to his future efforts. He's promised your editor a Navy cartoon.

Thanks Duane!

District 1 Recruiting Event Slated at Evergreen State Fair



For the second year in a row, VFW District 1 will be holding a recruiting drive at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe. Beginning on August 24 and running until September 4, District 1 Post members will have the opportunity to recruit new Comrades at the fair.

There are four available slots each day; 10 AM to 3:30 pm, 3:30 to 9 PM with a 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM shift to augment the busiest part of the day. Members can also sign up for a float shift to help cover the busy time and still be flexible.

Each Post should plan to have members participate. We will have a link for you to sign up via signup genius to be emailed to you soon.

District 1 Reports 2022-23 Accomplishments

Recognized as an All American District *(Right, the All American Cover)*



First Purple Heart VFW District in the state

Helped every city in Snohomish County to become Purple Heart Cities and the County itself

Regularly recognize Snohomish County area EMTs, Firefighters, Police officers, Sheriff's Deputies and Dispatchers

Nominated and recognized the State Elementary and Middle School Teachers of the year.

Helped dedicate local Veterans and Gold Star Families Memorials

Department of Washington Veteran of the Year chosen from District 1.

Cooties Pup Tent8, the 'Crazy Eights' was stood up in District 1

Currently has 8 posts and is working to bring a 9th online in Stanwood, WA.

16,270 hours of community service reported

\$ 172,906 donated to support a variety of veteran programs and institutions

58,222 miles traveled to perform a variety of services to veterans

2,711 veterans provided various forms of assistance